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# AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Montana Experiment Station  
Bozeman, Mont.

Volume XIX

DENVER, COLORADO

Number 1



JUNE 1937

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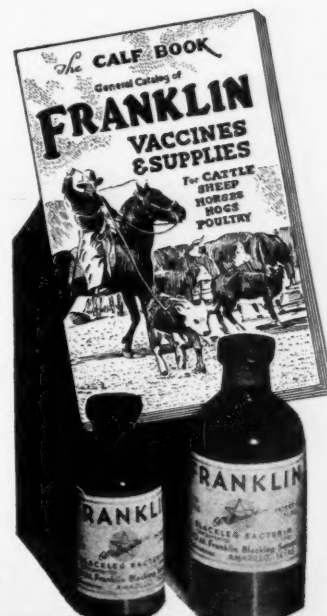
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## STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

### GLOOMY

TO THE PRODUCER: Conditions in this part of the country looked very gloomy until the last week, when we had two rains. The hay crop will be very short regardless of rain, except where irrigated. There is left only a small 15 per cent of the cattle that were here in 1931. Looks as if there would be plenty of feed for the stock here now, provided the hoppers do not get it, and that does not seem probable at this time.  
Miles City, Mont. WM. R. SUMER.

### FIVE-YEAR DROUGHT

TO THE PRODUCER: Just had good rain—six to seven inches—the past ten days. Grass is very thin on the ground, and lots of the roots dead, caused by the five-year drought. Very few cattle remain in the country. It will take several years of moisture and light stocking to get the range back to normal.  
Dalhart, Tex. A. Q. BONNET.

### GOOD RAINS

TO THE PRODUCER: For the past week we have been having some good rains. Grass is fine. Stock is doing well, and looking good. We will have a fair calf crop. The boys say that everything over the range is fine.  
Decker, Mont. M. C. WILSON.

### INTERNATIONAL ALBUM READY

Complete details on all phases of the 1936 International Live Stock Exposition are given in the annual review and album of the show which is now ready for distribution.

The International album consists of 340 pages. In addition to reports on each competition, there are listings of all prize winners and photos of all the champions as well as many of the first-prize winners. The book may be obtained by writing to the Exposition's headquarters at the Chicago stock yards. A charge of \$1 per volume is made to cover a share of the printing and mailing costs.

### GOLDEN JUBILEE

Prescott, Arizona, will celebrate the "golden anniversary" of its frontier days on July 2-5. The Prescott Frontier Days is the oldest official contest of its kind in the country and "Arizona's best cowboy contest."



# THE AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XIX

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Number 1

## More Moisture, More Grass

BY I. M. HOWARD

"GRASS just wouldn't grow on my pasture land in July and August before I placed contour ridges on it. Now I don't need supplementary crops in the summer months."

This is the way Jesse Dewees, Custer County, Oklahoma, stamps his approval on a method of pasture treatment that is fast gaining favor in grass producing areas throughout the United States.

"During the long drought of 1936," Mr. Dewees explains, "grass thrived on the contour ridges in my pastures when it was dead all between the ridges."

Where moisture is a limiting factor in grass production—and it is most everywhere during some months in the year—contour ridging or contour furrowing of pasture land is an inexpensive and effective means of keeping water on the land where it falls so it can be utilized by the pasture plants. The ridges and furrows also control run-off water, check soil losses, hold organic matter where it can be used for grass production, and keep seeds from washing away. In the South, where the lespedezas are widely used in pastures, the protection given seeds is of especial importance.

Contour ridges and furrows have many uses, but their greatest value is in the conservation of moisture. On the farm of Ira White, near Mankato, Kansas, measurements made May 28, 1936, showed that moisture had penetrated a foot deeper beneath contour furrows than it had midway between them. The increased moisture depth was noticeable for several feet on either side of the furrows. Similar results have been found in many other states.

Where pastures are well sodded, contour furrows are recommended in preference to the contour ridges used on land with poor grass stands. Less grass is disturbed by plowing furrows than by constructing ridges.

Contour ridges and furrows are con-

structed so they will hold all water from ordinary rains. They check the runoff, keep the water evenly distributed on the field, and cause much of it to penetrate the soil.

To increase the water-holding capacity of the ridges, the ends are turned up the slope slightly. Torrential rains may cause overtopping of the ridges, but this can do little damage to them once they are protected by a grass cover. Blocking the water channels of the ridges or furrows with small earthen fills at intervals of 50 feet keeps large quantities of water from concentrating in any one place and lessens the damage done in case of overtopping.

Ridges or furrows are placed at distances varying from 10 to 30 feet from each other, depending upon the type of

soil, slope of land, rainfall, amount of grass on the land, and the extent of erosion. On steep slopes the moisture conservation devices are placed close together. On badly eroded land where there is but little grass, more ridges are needed than on well grassed pastures suffering only slight erosion. Where there is doubt about the number of ridges or furrows, a frequent practice is that of constructing them far apart and later plowing one or more ridges or furrows between each two original ones. This is especially recommended for fields well sodded to grass to be contour-furrowed, as it disturbs less grass per season than would be disturbed if furrows were placed close together at first.

Lines for the pasture ridges and furrows can be surveyed with a farm level. This is an easy task, because the water-holding structures are built without any grade and it is not necessary to give any consideration to outlets as in the case of terrace planning.



Aerial View of Contour Ridges Near Muskogee, Oklahoma

Contour furrows may be made with an ordinary short-winged breaking plow. This, however, leaves the plowed slice of sod turned bottom side up. To make it possible to construct furrows and leave the plowed sod right side up, Soil Conservation Service engineers at Mankato, Kansas, have developed a special machine for contour furrowing. The machine can be made at little ex-

pense in a farm blacksmith shop from parts of a discarded cultivator.

Where the ridges are to be built, actual construction should begin with disking a strip 5 feet wide on the survey line. This makes possible a good union between the original soil and that of the dirt added to form the ridges. After the soil is disked, two rounds should be plowed with an ordinary

turning plow. The width of the slice should be smaller than the second round, and the furrow should be deeper than the first. For the following rounds, a wide-wing terracing plow is best, as it will make the ridge higher than will an ordinary turning plow; however, effective ridges may be constructed with the common breaking plow. A completed ridge that is 5 feet wide and 6 to 8 inches high is considered a well built ridge.

Disking the ridges immediately after they are constructed is a desirable practice, especially if the soil is cloddy or if turfs are present. Disking causes the soil particles to lie closer together, increasing the water-holding capacity of the ridges and making them more erosion-resistant. The disk should be set to throw the soil to the center of the ridge.

Whenever possible, contour ridges should be constructed during the winter months. Winter plowing gives the vegetable matter turned under time to decay and enables the ridges to become well firmed before being sodded or planted to grass in the spring.

Grass planted on the ridges is effective in maintaining them and at the same time increases the production of the pasture. In permanent pastures, buffalo grass, brome grass, or other perennials are ideal for planting on contour ridges. In fact, any grass or mixture of grasses of proved value may be used advantageously.

Often new grasses are introduced on pasture land by planting them on the newly constructed contour ridges and letting natural methods of seed dispersal spread the grasses over the entire pasture. By this method George A. Whillock, Noble County, Oklahoma, placed Korean lespedeza on all his pasture land. Whillock plowed the contour ridges in the winter months and in April they were sown to lespedeza. With no additional plantings, the pasture was well covered in lespedeza at the end of the second season after the contour ridges were built.

In protecting the seeds of annual grasses on steep slopes, the contour ridges and furrows greatly simplify the problem of pasture management. They slow up the runoff water, reducing its carrying capacity. This causes both seeds and soil particles to be deposited on the pasture land. Organic matter saved by the ridges and furrows is usually deposited near the grass seeds, and this stimulates the growth of the young plants.

Contrary to popular belief, contour ridges and furrows do not interfere with weed control. The increased amount of moisture and the conservation of organic matter cause the grasses to be more thrifty, enabling them to crowd the weeds out.

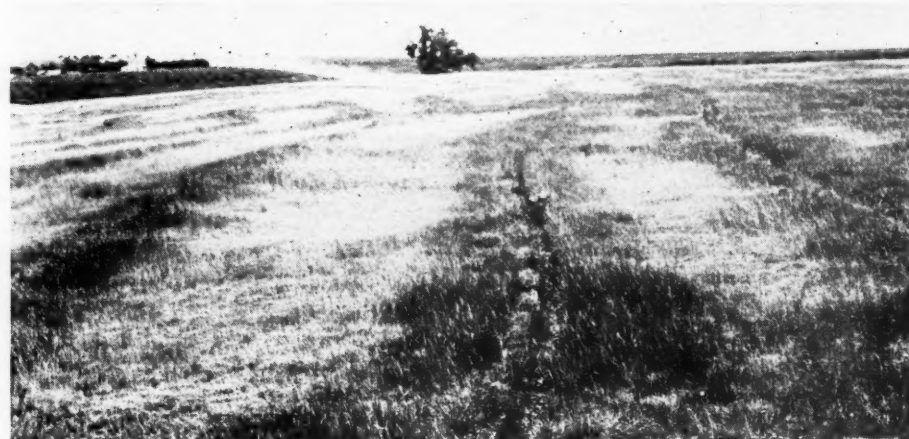
Contour ridges and contour furrows properly constructed and well grassed will last for years without repair.



Poorley Sodded Pasture Ridged to Conserve Moisture and Increase Grass



Water Impounded above Contour Ridge



Green Grass in August on Contour-Furrowed Pasture

Soil Conservation Service Photos



# HIGH PASTURES\*

BY NEIL M. CLARK

**I**N HIGH, LONELY COUNTRY, I threw on the brake and stepped out to examine the tiny fenced enclosure and to copy the sign in my notebook. It said:

**NATIONAL FOREST RANGE STUDY PLOT**  
This area was closed to all livestock grazing July, 1928. The purpose of the study is to determine the kind and amount of vegetation that the area will produce when not grazed, as a guide to range and livestock management on the surrounding ranges.

A shrill wind bit sharply through my clothing. The road ahead zigzagged upward with hairpin turns and lost itself finally around the dizzy shoulder of the cliff. The sun was setting behind a toothpick range that I had crossed early in the afternoon. I had been driving steadily ever since. For the last thirty miles I had not seen a soul. Somewhere in the haze of sunset a lone cow bawled for her calf. The West, the range. . .

"A big country!" I thought.

And big, I reflected, it needs to be. For the grass, even in the protected enclosure, was neither tall nor thick. It might take forty, sixty, even eighty such acres, I knew, to keep a cow a year. Not like the East, where a good eighty can carry forty-odd head. Nevertheless, in its own way, a rich country, if only because there's such a big whack of it.

I thought of the parts I had seen in weeks just past: steep slopes down which mounted riders coasted after steers; canyons where beavers labored undisturbed; sage flats; high skylines with shepherders' wagons etched on the sunset; vermilion cliffs and dust-bed ranges in House Rock Valley; Snake River, the Mountains of the Moon; herds moving over endless miles to market or to winter ranges; wild wooded pastures, startled deer, a coyote slinking into timber; and I knew that in five or six weeks and five or six thousand miles I had not begun to see it all.

Truly a big country, that it takes a lifetime to know. Yet they have been saying lately that it is used too much. Secretary Wallace lit into a group of live-stock men at Douglas, Wyoming, two years ago, by declaring:

"For the last five years over most of the mountain states you have been definitely overstocking your ranges, and you glory in your shame. You have been eating off the good pasture grass, and you have eaten it so close in many regions that the water has washed away the soil over large areas, and the wind has blown a lot of it away, until some of the land is almost permanently ruined. It is all right to go ahead if you want to, under your rugged individualism, and overstock your ranges and eat off the good pasture; it is all right for you to hurt yourselves if you want

to, but it is a shame to hurt the land the way you have been doing."

Stiff words, those! And in his letter prefacing a 620-page report prepared by the Forest Service and issued in 1936 as Senate Document No. 199—famously known as the "green book"—the Secretary reiterated his indictment, commenting on "the astonishing degree to which the Western range resource has been neglected, despite its magnitude and importance." The range territory, he pointed out, "occupies about two-fifths of the total land area of the United States and three-fourths of that of the range country"; and it produces, he added, "about 75 per cent of the national output of wool and mohair, and in pounds about 55 per cent of the sheep and lambs, and nearly one-third of the cattle and calves." The result of neglect, he asserted, "is serious and practically universal range and soil depletion, which already has gone far toward the creation of a permanent desert over enormous areas."

"Practically universal range and soil depletion." This is sternly serious if true. Is it true?

The answer does not concern the West alone, but vitally touches the East too. Within the range area are some 165,000,000 acres of public domain belonging, at least in theory, to the entire United States, but hitherto used on a so-called free basis in livestock production. The rise or fall of livestock on the range affects prices and markets for Eastern livestock. But perhaps the most significant thing of all is the scheme in process of development for "managing" livestock on the range in such a way that it may become—in the opinion of many Westerners is to become—a club for the complete control of livestock production throughout the country.

The object of everyone who has given constructive thought to the range resource is to have it used in the present to the fullest extent consistent with preserving it for the future. What, then, is the truth about it? Is the "green book" wholly right? Are the grasses and other forage plants really less numerous? Do they produce less forage by volume? Is there a trend toward disappearance of the more palatable and nutritious plants? Has erosion been seriously accelerated as a result of overgrazing?

It is necessary to have a starting point. By definition, depletion is a falling-off from a previous condition. It is necessary to establish, if possible, what the previous condition was. "Virgin range" is the phrase coined by the Forest Service; and it has undertaken to say what the virgin range was like.

Now, a standard modern method for forage measurement is the 100-square-

foot plot. Every kind of plant within the area is tabulated. To estimate forage by volume, all forage plants are clipped and weighed. Each plot is a sample. In order to get an accurate estimate of an entire area, a large number of sample plots must be counted. With enough samples, and if the examiners are competent, it is believed this method affords a fairly good measure of conditions at the time of measurement.

What are some results?

"In October, 1935," I was told by Dr. David F. Costello, of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, in Fort Collins, Colorado, "we studied 4,620 plots in Colorado and Wyoming. The average number of species per plot in the two states on lightly grazed or protected area was 12.4; and on heavily grazed areas, 9. That's a 27 per cent difference in favor of the lightly grazed areas. The interpretation is that 27 per cent of the species disappeared entirely. Complete studies," he added, "will include more than 50,000 plots."

Based on such studies as this, supplemented by observations of officials familiar with range conditions, the Forest Service has reached and published certain conclusions as to total depletion on the range. These conclusions were presented in the "green book" as to range types, and also as to types of ownership—"ownership and the form of control within ownership have had a marked influence on depletion." The figures for depletion by ownership classes were as follows:

OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL	AREA AVAILABLE FOR RANGE USE (1000 ACRES)	PER CENT DEPLETION
Federal:		
National forests	82,538	30
Public domain, grazing districts	127,792	67
Indian lands	48,391	51
Other	21,599	63
State and county	65,084	49
Private	375,546	51

Commenting on these figures, the Associate Chief of the Forest Service, Mr. Earle H. Clapp, says: "The federal public domain, a no-man's land without management prior to the creation of the grazing districts, is in the worst condition, with depletion of 67 per cent. . . . National forest ranges make the best showing, but despite thirty years' management are still 30 per cent below virgin conditions."

## A Disputed Point

Virgin. Around that word centers controversy. For it must not be supposed that these findings have been accepted without question.

What, after all, is "virgin" range? Pioneers did not use the 100-foot-plot method. Who knows what it was like? In a footnote on page 84 of the "green book," the authors say:

"Knowledge of original forage conditions was obtained by examination of remnants of the virgin range and of 'protected' areas such as ungrazed fence corners, cemeteries, and railroad rights-

\*Reprinted with permission from the *Country Gentleman*, issue of April, 1937.



of-way where the present vegetation is at least indicative of virgin-range conditions."

And in a footnote on page 72:

"Areas of range types in their virgin condition are approximations based on estimates by skilled observers and tempered by reasonably accurate information on extent of the types 50 to 100 years ago."

"Approximations!" snorted a cattle man who has known range conditions personally for half a century. "In cowman's language, an approximation is a guess. This whole theory of the amount of range depletion rests on guesses; and my guess, based on actual experience running cows, is that a considerable part of the range is at least as good, barring droughts, as it was fifty years ago. We even had droughts then!"

The evidence adduced to prove depletion, however, is not entirely of this sort. Diaries and histories written by early travelers contain occasional comments on range conditions. "The diaries of the early explorers and the accounts of later travelers through the Southwest," according to the Forest Service authors, "seldom or never mentioned any difficulty in finding forage for their animals. . . . Everywhere except in the desert areas there was an abundance of palatable and nutritious plants suitable for the pasturage of wild game and, later, for domestic livestock."

This attractive picture, however, is also challenged. Thomas Cooper, of Casper, president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, has been on the range continuously for forty-odd years. In the living room of his home I saw part of his collection of early travel books and histories. From these he selected passages to prove that long before the white man's herds moved into the West, the range at times was "depleted" so seriously that it was hard to find any forage at all. "Many acres of this plain had not vegetation enough to communicate to the surface the least shade of green." (Major Long's Expedition, 1819-20.) "We found very little grass for our horses and mules, owing to three causes: the sterility of the soil, the proximity of the mountains, and the grazing of numerous buffalo and antelope." (Rev. Samuel Parker, 1836.) "Our beasts of burden were compelled to fast and pine, for scarcely a mouthful of grass could be found. . . . A journey so long and continuous through regions where the drought had been so great that every sign of vegetation had disappeared had very much exhausted our poor horses." (Father P. J. DeSmet, 1841 and 1842.) "The season has been so dry that vegetation is literally parched up; of course, grazing is miserable." (General Joel Palmer, 1845.) "Forage was unusually scarce, and the animals were becoming much emaciated." (Life of James Bridger, 1860.)

"Those are a few of the records," said Mr. Cooper. "When we have sun-

shine and rain at the right time, there is an abundance of grass. We have the opposite conditions today when the sunshine and rain fail us; but so did they before any domestic animals had ever grazed on what is now called the public domain."

Heated controversies rage around particular areas, such as the Red Desert, a great sheep range, which the Forest Service declares to be virtually dominated by the "almost worthless rabbit-brush and snakeweed," whereas Dr. Aven Nelson, a world-recognized authority on Rocky Mountain plants, says: "The writer is compelled to say that he has found no evidence that the value of the desert as a grazing area is materially different now from that of any earlier period."

Another and perhaps more satisfactory method of getting at facts of range use and abuse is provided by research demonstration stations, where range-size areas are operated, and grazing is carefully regulated to test forage growth under different conditions of use. The Desert Experiment Station, in Southwestern Utah, for example, has demonstrated vividly the differences in forage production on ranges excessively and moderately grazed. This station is located in the heart of a semidesert winter-range area in Pine Valley, beyond Wah Wah Pass, not far from the Nevada line, about fifty miles west of Milford. Approximately 108 miles of fence enclose the experimental area.

#### Invasion of the Russian Thistle

I was told by Dr. George Stewart, senior forest ecologist in charge, that the land in this valley never had good management. It is public domain, almost exclusively. The policy followed in grazing was, first come, first served. All available feed was taken, most years. "It was in 1908, as near as we can tell," said Doctor Stewart, "that the first Russian thistles appeared here; but they were not of much consequence until about 1920."

The Russian thistle—*salsoda pestifer*—is an annual which resembles the tumbleweed: when dry, a good stiff wind will break it off near the ground and send it rolling across the empty landscape. In its green state it has a fair amount of forage value; in its dry state, too, when moistened by dew or snow. I stopped at a shepherd's wagon between Milford and Minersville, and sat under the bowed canvas roof, plentifully warmed by the cook-stove.

"What," I asked the herder, "do sheep eat on this range?"

"Shadscale and brush"—black sage, white sage, bud sage. "There's a little bitty grass."

"Do they eat Russian thistle?"

"Huh! if they didn't, they'd starve. They like it when it's wet."

"Has it always been here?"

"No, it came in. I quit herding about the time of the war, and was away for seven years. When I came back, there was a big change. . . ."

By students of range conditions, the Russian thistle is accounted an indicator of a deteriorated range. It comes in as better grasses and browse plants go out, and has terrific reproductive powers: seeds on a single large plant have been counted and numbered approximately 200,000. It is a general characteristic of semiarid growth, however, that the better grasses and browse plants, if given a fair chance, tend to crowd out thistles and other less desirable plants and weeds.

The point is, what is "a fair chance?"

That, essentially, is the question that research at this station and others seeks to answer.

We drove along the eastern boundary of the reserve. The difference between forage conditions inside and out was obvious. The outside, in many places, took its mid-October color from the drab brown of cured Russian thistle. Grasses were interspersed, but not thickly.

Inside, the color was much lighter, due to the thicker stand of the palatable rice grass, and became practically white wherever the nutritious white sage was coming in in volume.

"The difference outside and in," said Doctor Stewart, "is wholly one of management. The part inside the fence at this point has been under controlled grazing for three years. This particular allotment contains eighteen sections of land. We permit 2,500 sheep to graze on it for about 100 days; they stay until they take off about 75 per cent of the feed.

"Outside, there is no control at all. The sheep stay till they take 100 per cent of the feed.

"When any plant is repeatedly eaten off, as white sage and rice grasses are, on the outside, the starches and sugars stored in the root system approach exhaustion. No plant can manufacture these essential foods in quantities through its leaf system, unless the leaves attain a fairly good growth. Overgrazing progressively starves it, and it finally dies.

"With controlled grazing, we leave as much of the forage as we believe is necessary for range protection, yet we get 2.14 times as much feed as they do outside by eating it down 100 per cent year after year."

Vigor in growth, Doctor Stewart reminded me, is shown also by the production of seeds and young plants. Inside the fence I saw many small young plants of rice grass; outside, very few.

A demonstration visible to the naked eye along fence lines, like this one, is good proof that with moisture and other conditions identical, conservative grazing is a prime factor in range management for permanent productivity.

### A Four-Goal Program

The final effect of sound range management practices, according to Doctor Stewart, ought to be: (1) Some increase in carrying capacity; (2) Reductions in death losses—many present range troubles, he holds, are due to malnutrition; (3) Fatter animals; (4) Less erosion. They made studies at the station of a number of factors important in profitable range use. Three different types of range were used, good, medium, and poor. About 500 head of sheep were weighed and sampled for each type of range. Results follow:

	TYPE OF RANGE		
	GOOD 84%	MEDIUM 72%	POOR 57%
Lamb crop.....			
Change in weight of ewes during winter season.....	+6½ lbs.	-7¼ lbs.	-11 lbs.
Winter losses.....	3¼%	8¾%	15%
Supplemental feed (lbs. per head per season)		16 lbs.	32 lbs.

"In general," Doctor Stewart concluded, "my opinion is that this type of range has reached a stage of depletion where it can recover without artificial means, such as extensive reseeding. What it needs most is conservative use—leaving enough of the forage each year so that it maintains and renews itself. With such use, it ought to produce more pounds of beef, lamb or wool per acre, at less cost."

If the results obtained at Milford seem striking, it should be remembered that this is an area almost entirely of public domain, where through lack of any large ownership interest or grazing control the principle, If-I-don't-get-it-somebody-else-will, has been practically unchecked since livestock appeared on these ranges.

Results of research at other stations are comparable. The Santa Rita Experimental Range, at the foot of the Santa Cruz Mountains, south of Tucson, Arizona, has conducted interesting forage-clipping experiments. Similar plots were used. On some plots the grass was clipped two inches from the ground every four weeks, to simulate conservative grazing. On other plots it was clipped one inch from the ground every two weeks, to simulate heavy grazing. Over a nine-year period, according to Mr. Arthur Upson, director, the conservatively grazed plots gave a 41 per cent higher average density of forage, and an 89 per cent greater average yield.

On the Jornada, in Southern New Mexico (the dreaded "Journey of Death" of early explorers), black grama is found to require a top layer of loose sand, which blows or washes if the grass is cropped too short; and without the layer of sand, the grass cannot come back. Tobosa grass also survives best with moderate grazing.

These studies are pretty conclusive as to the effects of overgrazing in certain areas. But stockmen deny that these areas cover anywhere near as much ground as the "green book" says. They also point out that cattle

and sheep are not the only grazing offenders in the West.

### The Erosion Controversy

The Kaibab Forest, for example, which adjoins the north-rim portion of the Grand Canyon National Park, used to carry approximately 35,000 sheep and 20,000 cattle. This number was reduced to a handful in order to make the area a deer preserve. Predators were killed, and the deer increased so rapidly that they actually starved for lack of forage; and they did so much damage to valuable plants and young trees that it has been estimated it will take fifty years of protection for recovery. Elk on some ranges outeat cattle.

Rodents are forage destroyers too. On the Santa Rita Station, given a carrying capacity of about 1,200 cattle, it was found that jack rabbits, kangaroo rats, and ground squirrels, together, were eating enough forage to support 217 additional cattle. This was only what they ate. How much they destroyed, besides, is not known.

Soil erosion from seriously depleted ranges is a second factor heavily stressed in discussions of range condition. Livestock men almost universally discounted its effects except in special localities.

"Erosion," said one of them, "and beavers, made the West. The beavers built dams. Erosion, a natural age-old process, floated soil down from the hills. In time, enough accumulated to silt up the beaver ponds, making the meadows on which, today, we raise the hay that we have to have for winter feeding. . . ."

On some areas, however, the problem is not simple. In the Southwest, particularly, and on ranges adjoining certain highly developed agricultural areas, like the Salt Lake City area, overgrazing on high watersheds is recognized as a major menace. I was driven over tortuous roads to Parker Creek on the Salt River watershed above the Roosevelt Dam. Much of this area, according to a technical bulletin issued by the Soil Conservation Service, "is covered by highly erodible soils underlain by loosely consolidated alluvial deposits or disintegrated granites." They travel easily! C. K. Cooperrider, (Coop), Forest Service research engineer, led the way up a canyon trail above the station buildings, to a small dam a few hundred feet below rim rock.

"Water," he explained, "is our chief resource. The Salt River Valley, as you know, is one of the most successful irrigation projects in the country. About two-thirds of the people of Arizona live under this valley. How are we to get maximum water delivery and yet, if possible, leave the watershed open for other uses?"

"Within the topographic boundaries of the watershed there are about 3,-

000,000 acres. These are wild lands. Valueless? Far from it! On the basis of the average annual agricultural and power production in the valley for the ten years before 1930, I figure that the value of these wild lands as watershed is about nine dollars per acre. All other values, for recreation, hunting, grazing, are small in comparison."

### A Fertile Valley Ruined

"What we're doing up here, then, is to study how much water we get from the heavens and under what conditions we can retain it for use. We have a large number of study plots. The area we're looking at is one of them. It contains approximately 700 acres. We know the geology and the vegetation. We have rain and snow gauges, silt-catching devices.

"Our winter storms are usually gentle over a large area. Summer storms are local cloudbursts, accompanied by heavy runoff and 'flash' floods below. That's when the silt goes.

"Now, the rate of runoff and the amount of silt carried can be retarded with a good protective cover. Retardation does two things: stops the floods, and irrigates up here. And, of course, the valuable soil elements stay with us. Grass is the main protective cover. The thinner your stand of grass, the faster the runoff, and the less moisture your grass gets for survival. We find that if you have ten inches of summer rainfall, say, and your grass is thick enough so that about five inches of it gets into the ground where it falls, you maintain a good grass stand. But if the cover gets so thin that, say, only about three inches gets into the ground, your grass doesn't have enough to drink; even with ample rainfall, you have an effect of perpetual drought.

"That, I think, is one of the big dangers from overgrazing, especially on the steeper slopes."

Flash floods, dangerous when even small areas on the high slopes are overgrazed, can be very destructive. At the mouth of a canyon in Davis County, Utah, I saw the debris from an old mud flow caused by such a flood; boulders, some of them weighing an estimated 250 tons, had been swept down to the ruin of a formerly fertile valley, doing a million dollars' worth of damage.

### Grass Is the Solution

I also rode over the summits above, at the head of the canyon, and saw the protective measures taken at enormous cost to prevent recurrence. Terraced ditches have been dug at intervals of about a rod or so down mountainsides where the grade is 76 per cent. Each ditch is designed to catch and hold all the water that falls, up to the next higher terrace. It sinks in right there. Only because of the very high value of agricultural lands below, however, are these costly ditches considered justified. Even so, they are not

(Continued on page 20)



## Shipping Meat Animals Safely

**D**URING THE YEAR 1935 MORE than 2,000,000 cattle, nearly 6,000,000 hogs, about 1,000,000 sheep, and 360,000 calves marketed in the United States were so seriously bruised in shipment, or before, as to cause losses in the sale of the meat obtained from them. The loss from bruising alone, in the case of cattle, for example, was as high as \$1.90 per injured animal, or 38 cents for each animal handled, whether bruised or not bruised.

This loss can continue only at a cost to someone—largely to the producer—says the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board. But it is the board's aim to minimize this waste, and it asks that producers, truckers, railway employees, and stock-yard people do their part to reduce the loss.

Supplementing the article on shipping by truck, published in the May issue of THE PRODUCER, we quote the below recommendations of the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board for safe shipment by rail:

It is advisable and generally required to order cars from the local railroad agent at least two days in advance. If the shipper prefers to bed the car himself, or desires a certain kind or an extra quantity of bedding, it should be so stated in the order.

Upon arrival of the car the shipper should make a careful inspection to see that no wire, nails, or bolts are projecting that might injure the animals. Any loose siding or floor-boards should be repaired or immediately reported to the railroad agent. Doors should be inspected to make sure that they can be closed quickly after loading and locked securely.

### Overcrowding

More animals are bruised or crippled or even die in transit from overcrowding than from any other cause. The accompanying table shows how many animals of representative average weights can be safely loaded in cars.

Live stock should be delivered to the shipping point early enough to be given

time to rest and cool before loading. Watering should be moderate, as animals sometimes drink too much if overheated. As previously mentioned, grain should be withheld entirely or at least fed very sparingly just before loading.

Live stock should not be rushed into cars or crowded through gates and chutes. Excitement should be avoided. Preparatory time should allow quiet and deliberate loading to permit the animals to become accustomed to their new surroundings and get settled before cars are moved. It is important to start the load under the most favorable conditions.

### Partitions

Boars, stags, and rams, or vicious, crippled, and weak animals should always be properly partitioned. Bulls should be tied level with the head to upright braces in the end of car. They should be tied with strong rope, but never from nose rings. Slipknots about the neck will strangle, and should never be used, nor should nooses of wire ever be used.

Railroad tariff regulations require partitions to separate live stock of different kinds. These should be used also to separate calves from grown cattle, except when calves are with their dams. Partitions should be made strong. Splintered boards cause cuts, bruises, and crippling. Poles are very unsatisfactory, because they do not effectively separate small animals such as hogs and sheep from cattle and are not easily made secure. Protruding poles are dangerous.

Bull boards should not be left hanging from fastenings when cars are loaded with hogs or sheep. Such dangling bars may cause crippling and bruising.

At some railroad stations the trucks are backed to the open car-doors, which reduces the usual handling in pens and up driveways to the cars, lessening bruising to that extent. Any open floor space between truck and car should be suitably covered or protected.

### Bedding

Manure and foul or unfit bedding should be removed. This is especially important in warm weather. The fumes of foul bedding make animals uncomfortable and restless and may even suffocate hogs and sheep.

The character of the bedding is of great importance in the successful movement of live stock to destination. Animals not given proper footing may slip and go down in the car and be unable to rise, with resultant trampling, serious bruising, crippling, or even death.

Floors in hog cars should always be free from cobs, which are the cause of numerous leg injuries, such as fractures and sprains.

From the experience of shippers and the studies of experiment stations, the best footing is provided by good sand to the depth of at least one inch. Wiley, of the Purdue Experiment Station, Indiana, says:

"Death losses averaged just one-half as high in cars bedded with sand as they did in cars bedded with other materials. Crippled losses were also lower in cars bedded with sand than they were in cars bedded with other material."

Sand which has been wetted down just before loading is especially desirable as a bedding for hogs in hot weather. Bedding with cinders is very unsatisfactory, because hogs will eat them with possible injury to the intestines.

Straw bedding generates too much heat in summer and makes slippery footing when cars are drenched, but it should be used generously for protection in cold weather, preferably on a layer of sand and piled deeply around the sides and ends of the car as a windbreak.

During extremely cold weather, sides of stock cars should be papered or slatted. This protection should also be provided for sheep freshly sheared.

Cattle, calves, and sheep should never be showered. In hot weather hogs will ship with lower mortality if the sand bedding is wet. Facilities for drenching hogs are maintained by rail carriers at suitable intervals and a regular program prevails by which water is supplied in transit as warranted by temperatures. In hot weather, 200 pounds or more of ice distributed on the floor in a hog car will materially reduce losses from overheating.

### Handling at Markets

The unloading of cars at public markets is done by employees of stock-yard companies—experienced men usually careful to avoid injury. Certain stock-yard companies are to be commended for having given instructions not to use clubs and canes but canvas slappers instead. Some commission firms supply their employees with these slappers. As would be expected, most packing com-

### SAFE LOADING CAPACITY FOR 36- AND 40-FOOT CARS

The Live Stock Loss Prevention Association of Ohio has prepared the following table to show the number of animals at the designated average weights that can be safely loaded in cars:

		CATTLE PER CAR											
Average weight .....	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,300	1,400	
36-ft. car .....	60	50	42	37	33	30	27	25	23	22	21	19	
40-ft. car .....	67	56	46	40	37	33	30	27	25	23	22	21	
		HOGS PER CAR											
Average weight .....	100	125	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	325	350	400	
36-ft. car .....	130	115	100	89	79	73	68	62	59	56	53	47	
40-ft. car .....	145	127	110	98	88	82	76	69	65	62	59	52	
		SHEEP AND LAMBS PER CAR											
Average weight .....						50	75	100	125	150	180		
36-ft. car .....						155	125	105	96	85	75		
40-ft. car .....						170	138	116	104	94	83		

Above figures are for single-deck cars. In loading hogs or sheep in double-deck cars the number loaded in the upper deck should be eight to ten less than that recommended for loading in lower-deck or single-deck cars, especially during hot weather.



panies are particularly strict in these matters, for they know well the damage caused by rough handling. But even with these precautions, there is still much room for improvement in handling live stock at terminal markets.

A movement has been started in at least one section of the country whereby there may be a systematic, uniform method of furnishing information to stock-owners about their cattle, calves, hogs, or sheep slaughtered at the central markets that have been found on postmortem examination to have been bruised, diseased, or soft or oily. If tuberculosis or some other communicable disease is present, the state and federal sanitary officials nearest the point of origin also are informed of the fact.

This follow-up of bruised and diseased live stock is a co-operative effort of market agencies to advise live-stock producers of the condition of their animals after slaughter. The information sent to growers contains suggestions for eliminating losses from bruises and disease and is appreciated by them.

If producers, truckers, railway employees, and stock-yard people alike will do their part, these enormous losses and the cruelty which accompanies them can be greatly reduced.

Will you help? Make every shipment a safe shipment.

## Argentine Pact

**RENEWING HIS DRIVE FOR** ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, in a letter written May 7 to C. C. Hastings, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, characterized as "unwarranted and unfair" the opposition to the Argentine agreement.

The Illinois veterinarians had adopted and sent to Mr. Hull a resolution opposing the pact. The secretary's answer inferentially deplores adoption of the resolution (hundreds of such resolutions have come from stockmen, sportsmen, veterinarians, and state legislatures), argues for ratification of the agreement, and gives assurance of the administration's friendliness to live-stock producers.

Briefly the major points in Mr. Hull's statement leveled at the opposition are set forth below and answers given as quoted from a release issued on May 10 to United States Senators and others by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association:

1. In the main the secretary's argument is an economic one. He calls attention to the fact that there has been a decline in the value of our exports to Argentina between 1929 and 1936 of \$153,377,039. Later he states, "The prospect of any significant in-

crease in imports of lamb or mutton from Patagonia is negligible. . . . The fact is that the average annual imports of lamb and mutton during the 4-year period 1923 to 1926, inclusive (prior to the embargo) amounted to only 3,379,000 pounds, of which only 1,227,000 pounds came from Argentina."

ANS. The live-stock industry, despite all unwarranted statements to the contrary, has consistently opposed ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention solely on its merits and because it interferes with present necessary sanitary measures. We would call attention, however, to the inconsistency of attempting to restore exports exceeding \$150,000,000 by restoring imports of a million pounds of lamb annually.

2. The secretary calls attention to the fact that, prior to the enactment of Section 306(a) in the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry had full authority to impose sanitary embargoes against any country or any part of a country.

ANS. The statement is true, but the secretary neglects to say that from January 1, 1927, to June, 1930, when the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act went into effect, the Bureau of Animal Industry maintained a full embargo against countries and refused to accept imports from any part of a country which was not entirely free of foot-and-mouth disease. *There were no imports of beef or lamb permitted from Argentina or any other infected country during the period in question, although repeated efforts were made to secure permission for such imports.*

3. The secretary states, therefore, that Section 306(a), effective in June, 1930, thus added nothing to the already existing quarantine safeguards of the American live-stock industry.

ANS. Section 306(a) made mandatory the imposition of a complete embargo and removed from the officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry constant pressure for admission of products from regions declared to be temporarily free of disease. This was its most important accomplishment—protecting our sanitary officials and removing them from the sphere of political pressure and international intrigue.

4. The secretary states that Section 306(a) was adopted without the Department of Agriculture being consulted.

ANS. The secretary is misinformed in the matter. It is a well known fact in the live-stock industry that Section 306(a) was inspired by officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

5. The secretary states that Patagonia occupies a unique position in that throughout the entire past there is no record of foot-and-mouth disease in that region.

ANS. Before making such a statement the secretary should have consulted the official records in the Bureau of Animal Industry. He would find on file there sanitary police bulletins, issued by the Argentine government itself, which show that within the past two years there have been outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in two of the four provinces which are commonly considered to comprise the undefined region known as Patagonia.

6. The secretary gives the impression that the proposed convention deals specifically and solely with Patagonia

ANS. There is not a word about Patagonia in the convention. It would apply to any region which might temporarily be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease, and therein lies the danger.

7. The secretary calls attention to the language of the convention itself as affording ample protection by prohibiting imports from territories or zones which the importing country finds to be affected with disease.

ANS. As a matter of fact, the convention ties the hands of our sanitary officials, because, if they cannot find traces of the disease upon inspection, they "may not prohibit" entries of products therefrom. It is entirely possible for disease germs to lurk approximately a year (perhaps longer) before there would be a new outbreak following a previous infection. Our own official records in California and Texas clearly establish that fact.

8. The secretary states that the draft of the treaty was discussed with, and carries the approval of, the Department of Agriculture.

ANS. We have discussed the matter with all the leading officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry who are especially charged with the protection of the health of the live-stock herds of this country and cannot find a single one who was ever consulted as to the policy expressed in the convention. It is true that one official was asked a few perfunctory questions as to the topography of the country, the nature of the disease, etc., and on this flimsy pretext it is claimed that it carries the full approval of the whole department.

9. The secretary calls attention to measures adopted by other countries in the placing of embargoes when foot-

and-mouth disease outbreaks have occurred.

ANS. Any country in the world which has been successful in protecting its herds and flocks from the ravages of foot-and-mouth disease is justified in taking any precaution to maintain that position. There are more than sixty countries in the world which harbor foot-and-mouth disease. There are a mere handful of those which have by stringent measures avoided it.

10. The secretary says there are practically no beef cattle in Patagonia.

ANS. The cattle census of the four provinces which the authorities of the Department of Agriculture recognize as comprising Patagonia shows a total cattle population of 401,928 head in 1930, and of 426,700 head in 1934.

11. The secretary leaves the impression that the Argentine government is particularly concerned with removing what they consider an injustice and that actual results of ratification would be negligible.

ANS. Statements made in Argentine publications do not bear out the secretary. They clearly show that their purpose is to get meat into the United States. The fact that each year for several years past Great Britain has reduced Argentina's quota for both beef and lamb and that the agreement, entered into between those two countries a few months ago, covering the next three-year period reduces the quota each year, is the best evidence of what Argentina expects out of ratification of the sanitary convention.

The live-stock industry offers no apologies for its unrelenting opposition to ratification of this pact. By repeated costly experiences where individuals have seen the result of a lifetime's work wiped out by a firing squad, they have learned to dread foot-and-mouth disease. It is significant that the veterinarians of the country to a man are opposed to ratification of the pact. They are the ones who have gone through the mill in previous outbreaks.

The United States Senate can perform no better service for the live-stock industry than to establish once and for all the precedent that the diplomatic officials of the Department of State should not be allowed to make or unmake sanitary provisions which affect the very life of one of our greatest industries.

Two plants in the United States pack horse meat, principally for shipment to Europe. Between them they disposed of 11,803 horses during the ten months ended May 1 of this year—about 2,000 less than last year.

## Prospects for Meat Business

BY JAMES E. POOLE

**R**APIDLY VISIBLE SUPPLY OF fed cattle is waning. Western feedlots are at the clearance stage, Chicago gets a run of finished steers one day each week, replacement essential to summer and fall repletion of beef coolers is at low ebb, and the whole country is being ransacked for light steers susceptible of turning into creditable carcass. Weight, at a premium for several months, constantly grows scarcer. A few droves of long-fed bullocks weighing 1,400 to 1,600 pounds drift into market channels in irregular manner, to meet with scant courtesy from killers unless they show both condition and quality. Most of these big bullocks are plain and even rough, having been concealed during periods when they could have been marketed to greater advantage, especially when current cost of conditioning is considered. The few long-fed steers in feeders' hands are strongly held, but as carrying them is costly they are ready to move at any moment. Repetition of the glut of heavy steers that descended on the market from June to November last year is impossible. Already killers realize that they are running into harder picking.

### Limit Reached

Feeders who held long-fed steers in anticipation of a steady advance in value during the summer period are realizing that incidental expense was prohibitive of profit. Enthusiasm has subsided as visions of a \$16 to \$17 market fade. At Omaha the top went to \$16.75, Chicago registered \$16.65; but few steers have sold above \$15 at any time, no apparent or logical reason for these lofty levels existing, except possibly the fact of scarcity. That the limit has been reached is probable, if not certain. Even bullocks selling in the \$12 to \$15 range are on uncertain footing, trade requirements favoring the cheaper, if less desirable, grades. Light cattle under \$11, weighing 850 to 1,100 pounds, are always salable, while long-feds find a fickle market. There is no apparent limit to the capacity of killers where prices are below \$11 per cwt; popularity increases as values drop. This is constantly dislodging steers that have been 50 to 90 days at the feed-box, and as pasture became available the supply of so-called cheap steers was sharply curtailed. Slaughter figures will show gradual diminution with each succeeding month, unless from some unexpected source a supply of grassers materializes. The usual spring run of bovine trash and mediocrity from the South and Southwest went into the maw of a healthy beef market without creating a ripple.

### Market Nervous

Despite beef trade receptivity, the fat-cattle market is as nervous as a rabbit's

nose, uncertain, and subject to 25 to 50-cent mutations overnight. It will continue in that groove all summer. Prices are high, insuring instability. Such steers as were worth \$8.50 to \$9.50 per cwt. at the corresponding period last summer are now costing anywhere from \$12 to \$15 per cwt. on a wider spread; but the difference in price does not spell profit—gain cost is up 100 per cent. This season long-fed steers are a distinct disappointment to feeders; merely warmed-up light cattle are highly profitable. Yearling steers selling anywhere from \$11 to \$13, heifers from \$10 to \$11.50, and low grades of both sexes costing killers \$8.50 to \$9.50 are putting money in the bank. Consumers are resorting to the only possible expedient: reducing the size of the package of meat they purchase from day to day. That generous production during the first five months of 1937 was promptly absorbed without developing sales resistance is gratifying, and with continuance will round out a year of high, if not profitable, prices.

### High Enough

That "cattle are high enough" is an oft repeated assertion. To a majority of feeders, results are satisfactory. Those who cut off the feed bill by marketing early are complimenting themselves on sagacity. Maintenance of present prices—and more cannot be expected in view of disturbed industrial conditions—will insure a healthy outlet for the great bulk of visible supply. Such steers as can be appraised below \$12 per cwt. will find prompt sale, and, if the June-to-November run of cattle carrying longer feeds is no heavier than most people in the trade believe, they will not run into distress—merely run into dips and advances of 25 to 50 cents per cwt. from week to week, getting high money, depending on the element of luck in landing on a rise. Killers have adopted the policy of calling buyers to the office for new orders the moment a sufficient number of cattle for the day's slaughter have been acquired, always reserving sufficient buying power to pick up bargains, thereby reducing average cost on the hooks. At Chicago most of the heavy steers—meaning 1,200 to 1,400 pounds—have gone east on the hoof at prices ranging from \$12.50 to \$14.50 per cwt.—a basis on which the product can be sold to advantage.

Back in feeders' hands is the residue of a crop of yearlings—calves of both sexes that went into feeders' hands last fall, wintered well, and are practically assured of an \$11 to \$13 market, according to weight, quality, and condition. Most of the steers will go to the butcher at 950 to 1,100 pounds; heifers at \$10 to \$11.75. The heifer market is a distinctive leader and will be all summer, as a



coterie of small killers is responsible for keen competition. One result is that heifer yearlings came early, although May brought an increased proportion of steers and heifers in mixed lots. Choice yearlings will be scarce all summer, the Chicago top so far—\$16.65 per cwt.—being paid for Angus weighing 1,060 pounds. Choice yearling steers at \$13 to \$13.50 and heifers at \$11.75 to \$12.25 represent the most profitable beef-making operation possible.

#### Nondescripts Scarce

Common and nondescript cattle, both steers and heifers, have never sold relatively so close to merit in trade history, for which there is a plausible reason: cost to consumers and size of the package. Common steers selling under \$10 were so popular all winter that feeders cashed early, the trade running into scarcity in May, when prices actually advanced as better cattle ran into slumps. The Southwest did not make a seasonal supply record, cows were scarce, and cheaper grades of beef went into what amounted to a premium based on yields and celerity of sale. Killers ran all over the country picking up "trash," Chicago getting intermittent supplies of little steers and heifers from the Southwest weighing 450 to 650 pounds that realized anywhere from \$5.50 to \$7 per cwt., the product moving into distributive channels the moment it had been profitably chilled. Scarcity of low-cost heifers selling from \$7 to \$8.75 and dairy cows worth \$6.25 to \$7.75 per cwt. accentuated actual scarcity of common beef, canner and cutter earning \$4 to \$6 per cwt. Shortage of cows is directly attributable to processing by interior slaughterers, practical termination of the tuberculosis eradication campaign, and progress with Bang's suppression. Few cows went on feed last fall, as corn cost was prohibitive, and the few went to the beef-rail early. Scarcity of fat beef cows is indicated by an \$8 to \$9.50 market, choice individuals realizing \$10 to \$12.25.

Packers are reducing their cooler accumulation of beef, and, although the residue has been given undue prominence, it barely amounts to one pound per capita. It is tiding distributors over a bare spot in supply. Every pound of this stock is low-grade meat, utilized for sausage and similar purposes. Imports have dwindled, only continued heavy receipts of canned beef from South America adding materially to current supply. Under prospective conditions, there can be no possibility of beef accumulation until cattle gathering is resumed in the western grazing area, and it is doubtful if prices will drop to a level where storage of any considerable poundage is possible this year. At present the entire volume is going into immediate consumption, and more could be used at approximately the same prices. Beef trade has run the gamut of a succession of adverse conditions recently—floods, strikes, and the handicap of high retail prices—but the

market has invariably recuperated promptly, occasional breaks in replacement cost being repaired.

#### Feed-Lots Depleted

At this writing corn-fed cattle of all kinds are closely garnered. Commercial feeders have replaced to a limited extent, but farm feeders have rarely gone into June with feed-lots depleted to the same extent. Replacement has been curtailed, and, although a considerable number of steers figure in the monthly output by the central markets, calves and light yearlings comprise the majority. Dealers at the market, unable to operate in competition with killers, have discontinued handling fleshy, or two-way, steers, going into the Southwest to contract short-age calves and yearlings of which thousands have been transferred to grass east of the Missouri River, weighing 350 to 650 pounds and costing \$8.50 to \$9.50 per cwt. None of these figure in the summer and fall beef supply, as they will run on pasture to make cheap gains until new corn is ready along in October. By this method, cost can be reduced on cheap feed to \$6 to \$6.50 per cwt. Investment in fleshy feeders, 800 to 1,000 pounds, has been restricted by killer competition and cost of corn. Invariably when a feeder has attempted to buy fleshy steers at prices ranging from \$9.50 to \$10.50 per cwt. killers have raised bids to prohibitive figures, insuring a dearth of short-fed fleshy cattle during a period from July to August when they exert a dominating influence on values.

Corn went in late over the major portion of the belt and will be a gamble until the maturity stage is reached. Old corn is realizing record prices, the industries are importing increasing quantities from the Southern Hemisphere, and few localities are carrying even a meager surplus. At \$1.40 per bushel, carrying cattle in the feed-lot is impossible; as feeders must have a monthly advance, the market does not promise to break even. Even a normal crop this year will not insure new corn much below 75 cents per bushel, and the possibility of September frost or some other handicap to maturity must always be taken into account. Assuming that cribs are replenished, of which there is strong probability, the crop will be in strong hands until well along in the winter. Seventy-five-cent corn will stimulate interest in beef making, provided replacement cost is not excessive. The country east of the Missouri River has never been so short of cattle, or so long on pasture, and, if present fat-cattle prices are maintained, sufficient midsummer replacement demand will develop to start a brisk trade in yearlings and for the new calf crop when the weaning stage arrives. An \$8 to \$9 per cwt. market for yearlings is general expectancy.

#### Growers' Position Secure

Also to be reckoned with is killer demand for fat grass cattle the moment

gathering in the West is possible. Short-fed steers that have had only a few feeds of corn are now worth \$9.50 to \$10 per cwt., \$10.50 taking steers with only a respectable beef covering. As these are disappearing and sell before long-feds get consideration at buyers' hands, a high summer and fall trade in western grassers is certain. Last year liquidation necessitated by drought, superabundance of corn-fed cattle, an overload of bovine trash, and a short corn crop necessitated a bargain sale by which growers were severely penalized. This year they will hold the other end of the stick. Both with respect to numbers and beef tonnage the August-to-December cattle supply will fall considerably short of that of the last half of 1936.

Feeders are already showing concern over probable cost of replacement. That the available supply of yearlings on the western breeding ground is short of Corn Belt requirements will not be disputed, and interest in feeding circles is ill-concealed, nothing but corn scarcity restraining investment buying on an extensive scale. To get away from cost, pasture owners are taking inferior light steers at prices ranging from \$6.50 to \$7.25; medium quality at \$7.75 to \$8.50. Many of these steers are so-called natives; none carry enough flesh to warrant attention by killers, otherwise the country would not get them. When new corn is ready they will be crowded for a market that will need every pound of beef available, but in the aggregate they are few. The real market for replacement cattle will not develop until August, and by that time the entire belt will be in voracious mood. Western growers have only to exercise patience, realize the strategic strength of their position, and insist on reparation for 1936 losses. The position of the feeder is correspondingly weak; he must reconcile himself to following the market or going without cattle. Reduce corn cost and maintain approximately present prices for half-fat steers, and feeders, running true to form, will buy, their only possible security being that before the main crop is ready they will have an opportunity to unload. There will be no disposition to run into long feeds next winter, regardless of feed cost.

#### Plains Need Rain

Physical conditions in the Northwest vary and are not wholly promising. Eastern Montana and the western sections of both Dakotas need rain; without it a grass crop is impossible. This region, droughty for several years, is short of cattle and cannot, in any event, contribute materially either to the season's beef or stocker supply. Otherwise the whole western range country is spotted, and after several years of drought, so far from carrying its normal quota, is hauling young cattle from the Southwest for the first time since the inception of the depression. Although the Rocky Moun-

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## Why Take a Chance?

BY H. HACKEDORN

Pullman, Washington

**K**EYSTONE OF DISCUSSION AT the annual Washington Cattle-men's Association meeting at Yakima, May 17-18 was to guard the enviable position of Washington cattle as far as disease is concerned. Dr. M. Hales, state veterinarian, told of the success of his division of the state department of agriculture in combating Bang's disease and controlling tuberculosis—all Washington has federal T.B. accreditation. Dean E. C. Johnson, of the State College of Washington, told of the increased service this division is offering for research work in animal disease.

The most important disease control question confronting the American live-stock producer, affecting not only cattlemen but sportsmen as well, is now before Congress in the form of the Argentine sanitary pact. It concerns the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease, so prevalent in South America. "Why take a chance when we have all to lose and nothing to gain by ratification of this pact?" was the unanimous decision of the group of cowmen assembled. The resolution urging all Washington representatives and senators to oppose ratification was passed without dissenting vote and with many strong phrases urging representatives carefully to guard the present favorable sanitary condition of the American meat-producing industry.

H. R. Smith, of the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board, told of the successful program that supervisors of American animal health have had. But he urged live-stock shippers to take recognition of the immense bill that they pay each year for, in most cases, preventable losses. Shippers annually contribute about \$11,000,000 to this preventable loss and carelessness in transporting their live stock. Cattlemen alone pay a tax for bruised and crippled animals of approximately \$1.90 a head.

W. R. Hales, manager of the Pasco Stock Yards at Pasco, discussed the feeding program for the several thousand head of cattle which have been fattened in their lots this year. Lester Pearne, of the White Swan, prominent leader in the Yakima Indian Cattle Association, gave a brief sketch of the growth and success of the several cattle auctions held by the Indians each year. He emphasized the importance of these sales in teaching Indians the value of good sires and good feeding, as the cattle are graded and sold at the auction where each individual sees what his neighbor gets per head for his cattle.

E. N. Kavanaugh, assistant regional forester, of Portland, discussed points

of interest concerning the soil conservation program. Guy H. Owens, representing the state land office, told of the increased efficiency in the utilization of the state grazing lands. C. L. Jarison, secretary of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon, gave an interesting discussion of the wild-horse drives in some of the remote areas of his state. "Riding Herd on the Capitol" was the title of a talk dealing with national live-stock legislation and problems, delivered by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association.

A new feature of the program this year was the showing of top cow-horses. Bud Harrington and Alec Showaway, of the Yakima Indians, were the oldest cowhands present—somewhere around ninety years of age. They told in their own language, through an interpreter, of the coming of the white man into the Yakima country.

Another interesting feature of the program was the trip to the famous Congdon and Battles Aberdeen-Angus breeding establishment and the Hereford breeding plant of the Reese Brown Estate.

At the annual banquet, T. A. Platt, of Omak, was awarded the excellent Hereford yearling bull donated to the association by the Reese Brown Estate, of Brownston. In the Shorthorn division, Isaac Van Nostern, of Yakima, was awarded the good red Shorthorn calf donated by F. M. Rothrock, of the Hercules Shorthorn Ranch and manager of the Spokane Stock Yards. Elvin W. Turner, of Chesaw, was the lucky man in receiving the Aberdeen-Angus prize given by Congdon and Battles.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were: president, R. L. Picken, of Tonasket; vice-president, C. A. Greif, of Uniontown; secretary-treasurer, C. S. Maddox, of the State College of Washington.

Invitation of the Omak Chamber of Commerce was accepted for the 1938 meeting.

I. W. Ringer, of Seattle, spoke of the work of the National Live Stock and Meat Board in promoting producers' interests in the strong competition for their part of the consumers' food dollar. The cattlemen, through their resolution committee, urged all commission and packing companies in the state to co-operate with the Board in this work by collecting the fee of 25 cents a car for live stock sold.

## Montanans Meet

**F**IVE HUNDRED MONTANA CATTLEMEN met at the fifty-third annual convention of their state organization—the Montana Stock Growers Association—at Bozeman, May 19-21. The program, built around the Little International Live

Stock Show, included talks by a score of prominent speakers and varied live-stock demonstrations.

A feature of the convention was the presentation by animal husbandry experts of the Montana State College of live-stock experimental data along with the "experiment" itself, affording opportunity, as the animals were run through the ring, to see as well as hear the results of the work of this institution. Those in charge of the program are to be congratulated on the diversified and interesting features.

Address of welcome was delivered by Dr. Alfred Atkinson, president of the Montana State College, and the response by George M. Mungas, of Philipsburg. Reversing customary convention procedure, President Metlen's address and Secretary Phillips' report were submitted on the last day.

Other speakers included W. H. Donald, president of the Montana Live Stock Commission; F. R. Carpenter, director of grazing under the Taylor Grazing Act; B. W. Scandrett, vice-president of the Northern Pacific Railway Company; Dr. W. J. Butler, State Veterinarian; F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association; and E. W. Kelley, Regional Forester, Missoula.

Resolutions appreciating the good work done in the association by Wallis Huidekoper, of Twodot, and John Anderson, of Bozeman. Both men were given life memberships in the association, and Mr. Huidekoper was made honorary president.

Other resolutions called for—

Extension of benefits of Soil Conservation Act to areas federally owned and controlled, as provided in Senate Bill No. 320; extension of practice of "reseeding by limited grazing" to Montana lands; and inauguration of government sub-marginal purchase program in state for such areas as desire to co-operate;

Federal funds for fighting grasshopper and Mormon cricket menace in Montana;

Opposition to unnecessary enlargement of game preserves;

Permanent association committee to study legislation in other states and suggest laws to restrict settlement of state lands to prevent recurrence of unwise resettlement in recent years;

Scientific survey for determining fair land value as basis for assessments and leases;

Allocation of funds from Taylor Grazing Administration to areas not receiving benefits of other federal range improvement assistance;

Committee representing sportsmen, fish and game commission, live-stock interests, sanitary board, dude ranchers, water users, land owners, Forest Service, and chambers of commerce be appointed to look into problem of use of national forests by big game and live stock;

Continuation of good work of Biological Survey in predatory animal control;

Return of through freight rates from northern Montana to Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska on feeders; and

thanks to railroads for granting reduced rates on stock and feeds during critical drought season;

Opposition to proposed limitation of length of freight trains to seventy cars and passenger trains to fourteen;

Imposition of excise tax of 3 cents a pound upon imported canned beef;

Indorsement of Kleberg oleomargarine measure;

Indorsement of Senator McCarran's bill to make transportation of stolen live stock across state lines a federal offense;

Control by South St. Paul live-stock exchange and stock-yards over irresponsible buyers operating through that market, and "if necessary, urging advisability of patronizing markets that do co-operate in protecting Montana live-stock owners in preference to speculators;"

Indorsement of work of National Live Stock and Meat Board and Institute of American Meat Packers; and thanks to National Association of Food Chains for its work during beef campaign last year;

Pledge of continued support to American National Live Stock Association, and appreciation of work of F. E. Mollin, secretary of that organization.

Thomas A. Ross, of Chinook, was elected president; John P. Arnold, of Birney, first vice-president; and Carl Malone, of Choteau, second vice-president.

Helena asked for next year's convention. "It has been seventeen long winters since your spread camped in the Last Chance Diggings for its annual big medicine council," the invitation read.

"In that time so many strays and pilgrims have grazed our range that we are plumb eager to have a real old-time outfit head our way. We want to see the point-riders curving around the Scratch Gravel Hills; we want to see the dust of the drag rolling across the Prickly Pear Valley; we want to hear the dogies bawling on our bed grounds; we want to turn the camp loose once more and holler 'cowboys in town.'

"We've got the earthquakes gentled down till you can ride 'em with a loose cinch. Our water-holes are full and the grass is long. Some of the old-time palaces of pleasure have folded up, it is true. But we will barbecue our top beef and spread fresh soogans in the bunk house; we will hand you the keys to the whole shebang and take off the limit if you will just ride up in 1938 so we can say, 'Howdy, friends, light and rest your saddle!'"

The convention goes to Helena in 1938.

## Wyoming Meeting

**S**EVEN HUNDRED CATTLEMEN attending the sixty-fifth annual convention of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, held at Casper on June 1-2, were advised by S. C. Hyatt, acting president of the association, "vigorously to oppose the surrender of our consti-

tutional safeguards to the whims of the masses." Hyatt, in commenting on national affairs, referred both to the Supreme Court issue and recent labor disturbances.

Developments of the past year bearing on the live-stock industry of the state were recounted by Secretary Russell Thorp. Chief work of the association is brand inspection at the market centers, according to Mr. Thorp, and association members have protection at seventeen markets, brought about by close co-operation with other states. He called attention to depredations by rubber-tired rustlers and branded auction sale rings as a dangerous practice.

Paramount issues during the convention included the Taylor Grazing Act, which Acting President Hyatt said had proved satisfactory as far as it has been tried out in Wyoming, forest grazing, reciprocal trade treaties, and the Argentine sanitary pact.

Among the speakers discussing these and other subjects were the following: Thomas Cooper, president of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association; B. B. Brooks, of Casper; H. E. Dickinson, general superintendent of the Chicago and North Western Railway; A. A. Blakely, president of the Denver Live Stock Exchange; Raymond E. Miller, president of Agricultural Trade Relations, Inc., Stockton, California; George L. Gray, field representative, National Highway Users' Conference; Robert Cross Hawley, of Douglas; Mrs. P. J. Quealy, of Kemmerer; Albert K. Mitchell, president of the American National Live Stock Association; George Knutson, federal and state statistician; F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association; I. H. Larom, of Valley (famed as a dude ranch center); and L. W. Durrell, professor of botany, Colorado State College. Dr. Durrell gave an illustrated lecture on poisonous plants, exhibiting specimens.

Also of importance was a round-table discussion of the Argentine sanitary pact. Speakers were John Mackenzie, of Denver, representing the Matador Land and Cattle Company; B. H. Heide, of Chicago, secretary-manager of the International Live Stock Exposition; Dr. H. D. Port, chief executive of the Wyoming Live Stock and Sanitary Board; and M. M. Cushing, of Saratoga, treasurer of the stock growers' association.

Another round-table discussion was on the subject of the Taylor Grazing Act. Speakers included Hans Hanson, of Lovell, and J. Byron Wilson, secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association.

Of the resolutions adopted we summarize the following:

Calling for organization of state permittees' groups representing forest permittees, Taylor Grazing Act permittees, and Indian reservation lessees, to further interests of these users;

Opposing ratification of Argentine sanitary pact;

Urging lower railroad minimum weights so that stockmen will not be penalized by paying on weights that cannot safely be loaded;

Indorsing McCarran bill which would invoke federal action in movement of stolen live stock across state lines;

Protesting against adoption of further reciprocal trade agreements and urging that law be changed to provide for Senate ratification; and asking that monthly quotas be established on importations of cattle under Canadian agreement;

Indorsing Congressman Kleberg's measure to repeal retail oleomargarine license fee in cases where 100 per cent domestic fats-and-oils product is sold;

Urging railroads to accept contracts with live-stock shipments as valid for transportation accommodations in passenger trains as well as freights, with stop-over privileges;

Asking for necessary live-stock rights-of-way and fence protection along highways;

Favoring imposition of excise tax of 3 cents a pound on imported canned beef, as proposed in H. R. 7153;

Asking that any continuation for eradication of Bang's disease be on voluntary basis;

Pledging efforts to enlist support of state's organizations and citizens to resist encroachment of federal government on primal rights;

Urging Federal Land Bank to make available loans on range land based on land earning capacity;

Asking FCA to create land bank district to serve Rocky Mountain region;

Requesting senatorial investigation into propaganda that western farmers and ranchers are "all game hogs, despoilers of the forest and soils, and depleters of the range" to determine whether permission of such propaganda is set policy of government;

Opposing reduction of numbers of live stock grazed on forests under existing and valid permits;

Urging that rule that five head of sheep is equal to one head of cattle in matter of grazing rights be adhered to;

Opposing Pettengill bill which would emasculate long-and-short-haul provision of Interstate Commerce Act.

S. C. Hyatt, of Hyattville, was unanimously elected president of the Wyoming association; Charles A. Myers, of Evanston, vice-president. Russell Thorp, of Cheyenne, was renamed secretary; M. M. Cushing, of Saratoga, treasurer.

Torrington was designated as next year's meeting place.

## Louisiana Meeting

**A**DDRESSING FIVE HUNDRED delegates to the Louisiana Cattle-men's Association convention at Crowley, June 3, Arthur L. Gayle, president of the organization, urged cattlemen to press for opposition to ratification of the Argentine sanitary pact, in order to keep out hoof-and-mouth disease. He also urged adoption of a state brand



law to prevent thefts by "motorized" rustlers. Work of the American National Live Stock Association was praised by Mr. Gayle.

Other speakers included Paul C. Smith, vice-president of Swift and Company, Chicago; Robert M. Harrison, of Armour and Company, Chicago; Dr. W. A. McDonald, of the Bureau of Animal Industry; Dr. C. T. Dowell, director of experiment stations; John V. Nevitt, agricultural department, Missouri Pacific lines; Dr. W. R. Dodson, representing Dean Lee of Louisiana State University; Dr. E. P. Flowers, executive secretary, Louisiana State Live Stock Sanitary Board; J. W. Bateman, director of extension service; Dr. M. G. Snell; and W. T. Cobb, beef specialist.

Resolutions adopted called for—

Opposition to ratification of Argentine sanitary pact;

Repeal of reciprocal trade act, or "that all treaties negotiated under it be subject to ratification by the Senate;" and placing imports under Canadian agreement on weekly or monthly quota;

Objection to any government processing tax or excise tax on cattle or products thereof;

Tax of 10 cents a pound on margarine in which less than 100 per cent domestic fats and oils is used; and protest against increase of excise tax or restrictions on domestic fats and oils;

Increase in duty on canned beef 50 per cent; and protest against trade agreements with South America which would permit importation of this product;

Increase in hide tariff to 6 cents a pound on green cattle hides and 10 cents on dry hides;

Legislation calling for labeling of shoes as to leather content;

Uniform laws with respect to livestock inspection, regulations, and restrictions in interstate movement;

Indorsement of federal animal theft bill, introduced by Senator McCarren; Continuation of Bang's disease eradication only on voluntary basis;

Inquiry into the nutritive value of meats by proper federal department;

Uniform state laws regulating livestock auction sales;

Appreciation of work by National Live Stock and Meat Board;

Indorsement of policies of American National Live Stock Association and appreciation of work of that organization;

Welcome to Swift and Company into packing business in Louisiana and pledge of association's co-operation.

Arthur L. Gayle, of Lake Charles, was unanimously elected for his third successive term as president of the association.

Other officers, all re-elected, were J. D. Cooper, of Flora, G. W. Patterson, of Tallulah, L. A. Borne, of Bouie, and A. R. McBurney, of Welsh, vice-presidents; J. W. Bateman, of Baton Rouge, director of extension, Louisiana State university; and W. T. Cobb, of Baton Rouge, secretary.

Baton Rouge was selected as the 1938 convention city.

## Live-Stock Meetings

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE executive committee of the Northern Arizona Cattlemen's Association, members of which operate principally in Apache, Navajo, eastern Coconino, and northern Gila counties, a resolution was adopted opposing "any new soil conservation measures, for the reason that conservation is amply taken care of by the present Agricultural Conservation Association program and that stockmen feel they should be given a chance to work out their own land program on their own land."

The preamble of the resolution recites that the ranges for years past had been abused primarily because of federal land policies, but that the Taylor Grazing Act has changed those policies and stockmen now have some assurance of a permanent range which they can control; that, granted that proper stocking is the best way of conserving range, the government has already initiated, under the Soil Conservation Act, the Agricultural Conservation Association program which in itself will take care of the needs of soil conservation.

Ranges in the locality, the resolution stated, have increased in carrying capacity since the government changed its land policy. With assurance of permanent holdings, the stockmen felt further conservation and improvement of the range would result and no government supervision or financial assistance would be necessary.

On May 26-29 the Northern Arizona association held its third annual livestock show and jubilee for the benefit of the American National Live Stock Association, at which the secretary of the National, F. E. Mollin, and the secretary of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Mrs. J. M. Keith, were speakers.

Ross Perner, of Snowflake, is president of the Northern Arizona Cattlemen's Association, and J. C. Wetzler, of Holbrook, secretary-treasurer.

\* \* \*

Representatives of twenty-seven Montana grazing associations, meeting at a conference in Lewistown on April 15-16, recommended that a permanent committee be appointed to study legislation of other states and formulate suggested legislation to place definite restrictions on the resettlement of Montana. A second resolution asked that federal and state agencies combine their efforts to obtain a scientific survey for determining a fair land value on which to base assessments and leases.

\* \* \*

Members of the Cochise-Graham (Arizona) Cattle Growers' Association on April 24 adopted a resolution indorsing the principle of conservation but asking that the "governor's committee be given ample time in which to prepare and submit a recommendation for legislation

that will make possible a sound conservation program for Arizona."

President of the Cochise-Graham organization is Harry Hooker, of Willcox; vice-president, Charles McKinney, of Courtland; secretary, Mrs. May Z. Smith, of Willcox.

\* \* \*

A. A. Curtis and Bennett Savage, both of Steamboat Springs, were re-elected president and vice-president, respectively, of the Steamboat Springs Stock Growers' Association at its annual meeting held at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, on May 1. O. C. Bartholomew, of Steamboat Springs, was chosen secretary. Members of the executive committee include: A. M. Powell, Bennett Savage, A. B. Brown, and Chester Hitchens, all of Steamboat Springs.

Among resolutions adopted was one calling for appointment of a secret committee to co-operate with other organizations in connection with apprehension of cattle rustlers. The resolution offered a reward of \$250 for arrest and conviction of cattle thieves.

\* \* \*

John Etchepare, of Glasgow, was re-elected president of the Northern Montana Stockmen's Association at the twelfth annual session of the organization at Chinook, May 4. Also re-elected were Steve Holman, of Wagner, vice-president; W. A. White, of Hinsdale, secretary-treasurer.

Among resolutions adopted was one indorsing a Montana senate request to the Department of Agriculture to invoke rules and regulations under which marketing agencies and dealers can co-operate. Action came as result of complaints by shippers that they had not received correct returns from buyers in the South St. Paul market over whom the reputable commission houses claimed they had no control.

Other resolutions asked for reinstatement of through freight rates from the northern area to Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska feed-lots to provide a better outlet for stock; requested cattle from Canada under the reciprocal trade agreement to be put on weekly or

(Continued on page 19)

## The Calendar

July 2-5—Golden Jubilee, Prescott Frontier Days, Prescott, Ariz.

July 16-17—Convention of Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n, Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Aug. 4-6—Convention of Wyoming Wool Growers' Ass'n, Kemmerer, Wyo.

Aug. 7—Pueblo County Stock Growers' Ass'n Annual Picnic, Rye, Colo.

Aug. 24-25—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Oct. 9-15—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock and Horse Show, Omaha, Neb.

Jan. 12-14—Forty-first Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Ass'n, Cheyenne, Wyo.



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## EDITORIALS

### Pettengill Bill

FOR SEVERAL YEARS PAST THE railroads have been putting forth tremendous effort to secure passage of the Pettengill bill, designed to emasculate the long-and-short-haul clause of the Interstate Commerce Act. An extensive lobby has been maintained at Washington. Meetings of shippers all over the country are packed with railroad representatives. They invade committees concerned with transportation matters and brazenly remain while such committees act in executive session. At every opportunity of contact, fieldmen endeavor to convert shippers to the belief that the Pettengill bill will in some magic fashion yet unexplained lower the freight rate on the particular commodity the individual hearer is interested in.

Resolutions by the score have been secured endorsing the measure. Pressure is applied by calling attention to the good service now being rendered—which, incidentally, is being paid for. Many of the resolutions are nothing more than an expression of friendship and goodwill—sought on that basis, the organizations passing them having little knowledge of the issues involved. Chambers of commerce in railroad junction points, even in the areas which would be most adversely affected by the passage of the bill, are particularly susceptible to such pleadings—and to larger checks for local support than were formerly tendered them. Even the executive committee of a great national farm organization, after a secret meeting with top railroad officials, reversed the traditional position of its organization and fell in line with

other agencies which had succumbed to the railroad drive.

It is apparent that the relatively small amount of business which at best could be recaptured from the waterways does not justify this tremendous effort. The stakes are far bigger than that. A means would be provided for throttling all competition. Used ruthlessly, it would soon create an unbearable situation, against which the very organizations now lending their support to the railroads would be the first to rebel.

Unfortunately for the western livestock industry, it is located largely in noncompetitive territory. Consequently, the opposition to the enactment of the bill has been steadfast, despite the blandishments of the railroads. That general opposition is increasing is evident from the fact that this year a strong minority report came from the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce; last year the bill was reported favorably without a minority report. A year ago the House passed the bill by a vote of 215 to 41; this year the record shows 268 to 120.

It would therefore appear that the railroads by their intensified drive are in reality developing the resistance to the bill. Much of their support is half-hearted, not based on any real interest in the matter, while the growing opposition is fighting a battle for the preservation of competition in transportation, for the right of communities to develop along natural lines, and for the prevention of uneconomic rate adjustments and the chaotic conditions that would result therefrom. The final result is yet in doubt, but the difficulty of driving through a measure for which there is little spontaneous demand, though the effort and money available for the task appear to be unlimited, is being conclusively demonstrated.

### High Tariffs

FOR MORE THAN FOUR YEARS Secretary Hull at every opportunity has expounded upon the shortcomings of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930. It has been held forth as the major cause of world depression, blamed for the sharp decline in world trade, and condemned as the most iniquitous piece of legislation ever enrolled on the statute books of our fair country. It has been assumed that our tariffs are the highest in the world and that Uncle Sam is therefore largely to blame for all existing barriers to world trade.

It is on such a background that the secretary has developed his drive for reciprocal trade agreements with the principal countries of the world. When this program has been completed and the benefits of one agreement generalized to all other countries, he will have realized a lifelong ambition. Long an advocate of lower tariffs, he will have

in this fashion lowered the duty on practically every item in the present tariff act, without the slightest interference from a Congress which has spinelessly surrendered its powers to initiate and enact tariff legislation. We must concede that the secretary at the present time is "one up" on Congress and the country at large.

In view of the foregoing, it is somewhat astonishing to read what James A. Farrell, chairman of the National Foreign Trade Council, has to say about the matter. An advocate of the present so-called reciprocal trade policy, because he represents the industrial East which stands to reap the benefit thereof—partially at the expense of American agriculture—his words merit special attention. The following paragraph is from his speech at the round-table conference on world trade outlook of the United States Chamber of Commerce April 27, 1937:

Much has been said with respect to tariff barriers, but it is not generally recognized that approximately 60 per cent of our imports pay no duty. It can also be said that the United States has one of the lowest average rates of duty when applied to its total imports. Consequently the American policy of breaking down restrictions on international trade is consistent and seems to offer to the world an example of a moderate tariff and a promising way out of the present vicious cycle of tariffs, quotas, embargoes, etc., imposed by other countries.

It is refreshing to note from such a source that Uncle Sam is not so bad as he has been painted. As a matter of fact, he is a mere infant and novice in giving adequate protection to home industries. Some day, after fruitlessly trying to reform the world, he will grow up, and in his mature wisdom he will stand unflinchingly for the rights of the domestic producer in the domestic market as practically every other country in the world does today.

### Slicing 'Em Thin

ORDINARILY WE'RE NOT IN favor of most of the fool laws state legislators propose, says the *Chicago Daily Drivers Journal*, but one bill that has its points is that introduced in one of the southern states setting a minimum thickness for slices of bacon.

The author of the act points out that modern slicing machines will cut bacon to the thinness of paper, that some restaurants serve paper-thin bacon, and that they thus reduce consumption and hurt the live-stock business. So the *Journal* casts its vote for the anti-shaving law. So do we.

And we would suggest that the bill be made to apply to ham, too. You may have heard the story about the Indian buck who had ordered a ham sandwich and was peering between the slices of bread when he said:

"Ugh, you slice 'em ham?"

"Yes," said the waiter, "I sliced the ham."

"Ugh," grunted the Indian, "you damn near miss 'em."

## GOVERNMENT

### Federal Forecast

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT predicted in its May report that cattle prices the remainder of this year will continue to average higher than in 1936. Better-grade slaughter animals may advance in price, because of smaller prospective marketings of grain-feds, and lower-grade slaughter stock will not decline seasonally so much as usual because of strong demand for meats and hides and prospective increase in demand for replacement stock.

Slaughter supplies of cattle should be smaller the last half of 1937 than during that period last year. January-April cattle slaughter under federal inspection was 12 per cent larger, in number, than a year earlier, and the largest for this period on record. Weights have been lighter this year than last.

Prices paid by packers averaged 13 per cent more in the quarter just past than a year earlier.

Unusually large stores of hog products and high corn prices, compared with prices of hogs, mark the current hog situation, according to the bureau. On May 1 storage holdings had increased over a year earlier equivalent to 2,700,000 hogs of average market weight. These stocks apparently had prevented the usual spring advance in hogs.

Short supplies and high corn have caused an early market movement of 1936 spring pigs and earlier than usual marketings of last fall's crop. In April the hog-corn ratio was near the lowest level on record.

Seasonal reduction in marketings this summer may be greater than usual, and further price advances are in prospect for the summer.

The early lamb crop is somewhat smaller this spring than last, and marketings have been delayed by unfavorable weather and feed conditions, the bureau reported. This may result in a larger than usual increase in marketings in the late lamb marketing season after July. Relatively small marketings of new crop lambs were reported in prospect until after June, and the seasonal decline in prices of such lambs probably will be later than usual this summer.

### Stockmen Meet with President

THIRTY-TWO LEADING STOCKMEN, MEETING with President Roosevelt at Fort Worth, Texas, on May 12, pressed upon the chief executive their reasons why the Argentine sanitary pact should not be ratified.

Objections to ratification were based on the ground of danger to American

herds from foot-and-mouth disease. No indication of the President's attitude, further than the suggestion that action on the treaty should be based on definitely determined facts, was given. The stockmen were invited to present their objections in writing.

Among the persons visiting the President were: C. J. Abbott, Hyannis, Nebraska; Henry G. Boice, Patagonia, Arizona; Luke Brite, Marfa, Texas; W. H. Burke, Little River, Kansas; F. W. Harding, secretary, American Short-horn Breeders' Association; B. H. Heide, secretary of the International Live Stock Exposition; Roy Hudspeth, president of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association; A. D. Jones, Roswell, New Mexico; R. J. Kinzer, secretary of the American Hereford Association; John Mackenzie, Denver, Colorado; Frank McGill, Alice, Texas; Albert K. Mitchell, president of the American National Live Stock Association; F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association; B. C. Mossman, Roswell, New Mexico; Hubbard Russell, Los Angeles, California; Jay Taylor, Amarillo, Texas; W. H. Tomhave, secretary of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association; and C. B. Wardlaw, vice-president of the National Wool Growers' Association.

### AAA of 1937

HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARING ON A NEW agricultural adjustment act to supplant in part the present soil conservation plan was started the third week of May.

Objective of the measure, as announced, "is to maintain for farmers parity prices for crops of cotton, wheat, corn, rice, and tobacco, and to that end to keep the total supply, i. e., carryover plus current production, at substantially a normal supply level." Secondary objectives are maintenance of an ever-normal granary and conservation of soil resources.

Contracts offered would provide for parity payments and "surplus reserve loans" to farmers who agree to follow instructions (termed co-operators) of the Department of Agriculture in acreage planted to major crops. For both co-operators and all other farmers, quotas may be established fixing the amount that may be marketed from each farm. No payments for diversion of acreage of the major crops are provided for. Non-co-operators producing any of the major crops are cut off from soil-building payments under existing law.

As a penalty for "unfair agricultural practices," a tax of about 66 per cent is levied on all marketings of produce

in excess of quotas assigned, applicable alike to co-operators and others.

Added devices for regulating prices are: (1) Advance of loans against farm produce based on a certain price, thus pegging the value of the commodity. This would permit the farmer to hold his product for a better price. (2) Use of a flexible tariff. If prices get too high, the tariff would be lowered to permit imports, and if they are battered down by importations, then tariffs might be raised.

Cost of parity payments to farmers under the plan, according to the administration, would "be less than \$400,000,000 and will reach a 'probable minimum' of but \$287,000,000."

Secretary Wallace believes the draft's provisions for raising and lowering tariff rates should be eliminated. His reasons: Quickly variable tariff rates are disruptive to trade; provision as it stands would give farmers high tariffs on paper when existence of surpluses made the duties actually ineffective and low tariffs whenever the duties afforded farmers any real protection.

He also suggests a system of downward graduations on payments to large producers and a division of the payment between landlord and tenant or share-cropper in the same ratio as the crop is divided between them.

### "Common" Grades Decreasing

OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THOSE who fear that under government grading too many cattle would be thrown in the "common" grade, is the report of grading operations at Seattle for 1935 and 1936. This shows that "goods" and "mediums" are on the increase; that "commons" are decreasing. The figures follow:

CARCASSES GRADED

	1935		
	Steers	Heifers	Cows
Prime .....	102	3	.....
Choice .....	2,423	317	201
Good .....	17,739	5,826	5,123
Medium .....	10,398	4,006	6,038
Common .....	2,578	810	4,377
Cutter .....	230	131	3,674
Low Cutter.....	9	2	997
Total .....	33,479	11,095	20,415
	1936		
Prime .....	152	7	.....
Choice .....	4,770	533	163
Good .....	28,473	8,861	5,086
Medium .....	9,883	3,589	5,873
Common .....	1,766	560	3,723
Cutter .....	100	103	2,180
Low Cutter.....	.....	13	987
Total .....	45,144	13,666	18,017

### WASHINGTON NOTES

TOTAL LOANS OF \$4,376,000,000 since organization of the Farm Credit Administration four years ago are announced by Governor W. I. Myers. "No such vast sums had ever before been loaned to individual farmers by co-operative credit institutions," Gover-



nor Myers said. The largest part of the money loaned since 1933 was advanced through the federal land banks and production credit associations. Farmers obtained over 3,000,000 direct loans from the co-operative and emergency agencies under FCA supervision.

\* \* \*

**Tax provisions of the Louisiana chain-store act** were upheld in a Supreme Court decision handed down on May 17. The act imposes graduated taxes upon chain-store firms, the amount of the tax being determined by the number of stores operated by the chain, even those operated outside Louisiana. Twenty-three states now have chain-store taxes in effect. Seventeen use the number of stores as the basis of taxation; Tennessee uses the average invested capital; Minnesota and Florida, the number of stores and total sales.

\* \* \*

**Bills built around President Roosevelt's ideas on wages and hours** would (1) bar in interstate commerce products of child labor and workers paid below a "minimum" wage employed over a "maximum" of hours or under conditions violating labor rights; (2) fix a basic maximum work week and minimum wage levels; (3) and establish a labor standards board of five men armed with broad powers over the labor standards of industry.

\* \* \*

The Supreme Court on May 17 declared it could not generally condemn the "windfall" tax provision that a processor must show, when he seeks to recover taxes, that he has not passed the tax on to the producer or consumer. The taxpayers had contended this to be impossible, but the court stated in effect that they should follow procedure laid down in the law, bringing what proof they could before the treasury. After ruling by the treasury the processor could again come before the court to test the law's validity.

\* \* \*

A reforestation bill that passed both houses the early part of May appropriates \$2,500,000 annually for government aid to farmers who wish to turn part of their farms into woodlands.

\* \* \*

Wayne H. Darrow, of College Station, Texas, was appointed chief of the regional contact section, division of information of the AAA, effective May 1. He succeeds Reuben Brigham, who has been appointed assistant director of the extension service. For three years Mr. Darrow has served under the AAA. Prior to this work he was farmer, county agricultural agent, district agricultural agent, and extension editor in Texas.

\* \* \*

The old-age pension (by a 7 to 2 vote) and unemployment insurance (5 to 4)

legislation was upheld May 24 by the Supreme Court. The court also approved the Alabama state unemployment act—enacted to carry out by local co-operation the general terms of the federal unemployment act. The majority opinion in the unemployment insurance question held that the tax was an excise tax and approved it; that the tax was not invalid because of exemption of employers of less than eight persons; that the law does not call for surrender of essential powers of states; and that the tax was not coercive on the states.

\* \* \*

Re-enactment of the marketing agreements provision of the AAA is provided in a bill sent to President Roosevelt on May 25. The bill changes the original act to permit the Secretary of Agriculture to fix milk prices.

\* \* \*

Roy I. Kimmel, of Amarillo, Texas, has been placed in charge of a long-time program in the southwestern dust bowl. His job will be to co-ordinate activities of Department of Agriculture agencies in 103 counties in Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. M. L. Wilson, undersecretary of agriculture, will be in charge of the program. Experience and advice of state, regional, and county organizations and governments will be utilized. The program calls for removal from cultivation of thousands of acres where top soil has been blown away and shift of additional thousands of acres from cultivated crops to grass and pasture. Funds already allotted to federal and state agencies will be used.

\* \* \*

Senate and House conferees late in May agreed on a compromise bill which would extend the life of the CCC three years. The House had held out for an extension of two years, and the Senate wanted the organization made permanent. House conferees agreed to the Senate amendment to place administrative employees on the corps under civil service.

\* \* \*

Contemplation of negotiation of a trade agreement with Czechoslovakia has been announced by the Department of State.

\* \* \*

Hearings on Senator Capper's fabrics bill commenced June 9. The measure would require wool goods to be labeled to show the percentages of fiber contents. Manufacturers would be forbidden to use the word "wool" in labels or advertising on products containing less than 25 per cent wool. Misbranded goods would be barred from interstate shipment.

\* \* \*

The Senate the third week of May concurred in previous House action to continue until 1942 the present AAA

soil conservation program, which without such legislative action would have had to be taken over by the states next year.

\* \* \*

The \$1,500,000,000 work relief bill for aiding 1,700,000 jobless in 1938 was passed by the House June 1 and sent up for Senate consideration. The bill, an administration measure, had weathered attempts in the House to earmark \$300,000,000 for public works, \$55,000,000 for flood control, and \$150,000,000 for highways; to reduce the relief fund to \$1,000,000,000; and to turn relief administration back to the states.

\* \* \*

Congressman Buck of California has introduced H. R. 7153, which would impose an excise tax of 3 cents a pound on imported canned beef.

## Louis F. Swift

LOUIS F. SWIFT, SEVENTY-FIVE, FORMER president and chairman of the board of Swift and Co., died on May 12 after several weeks' illness.

He started in the meat packing business at the age of ten and held virtually every position in the company. Swift retired in 1933 after resigning as a director.

When a schoolboy on Cape Cod, Swift held a lantern during the evenings while his father butchered cattle. Expanding, Gustavus F. Swift, the father and founder of the company, came to Chicago in 1875. At the age of fifteen, Louis Swift became a cattle buyer. When the elder Swift died in 1903, Louis became president.

Survivors include a son and a daughter.

## Joseph H. Mercer

JOSEPH H. MERCER, LATE SECRETARY of the Kansas Live Stock Association, passed away at his home in Topeka, Kansas, on May 5. He had undergone an operation two weeks before his death.

He was born in Williamsburg, Ohio, in 1864. He moved to Kansas in 1887, there engaging in the merchandise business in Cottonwood Falls and later taking up farming and stock raising. Since 1893 he had been active in agricultural and political affairs of Kansas and the Southwest.

In 1909 Mr. Mercer was appointed live stock sanitary commissioner of Kansas and served in that capacity until his death. For twenty-seven years he was secretary-treasurer of the Kansas Live Stock Association. He was a member of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, president of the Kansas Live Stock Show, and a director of the American Royal Live Stock Exposition. He is survived by a widow and three daughters.

## MARKETS

### Prospects for Meat

(Continued from page 11)

tain region has retained breeding herds, it is short of yearlings and will not mature a normal calf crop. Rehabilitation will necessitate holding calves and possibly yearlings. During the drought a considerable number of cattle made pilgrimages to western pastures in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon; some of them may be shipped east, although Pacific Coast trade will absorb the majority. Unless the plains section gets moisture in June sufficient to revive grass, forced loading may be necessary. Where grass is available owners have incentive to delay gathering, as every pound of weight will count next fall, and if steers carry sufficient flesh to make a carcass, killers will make keen competition with feeders.

Washington is still silent regarding the Argentine deal. At Fort Worth, a ripple occurred when a group of thirty cattle raisers took the opportunity afforded by President Roosevelt's recent visit to urge him to change the administration policy. He made no definite promise, his reply being that he was as deeply interested in the sanitary phase of the situation as the live-stock interest and that nothing would be done to jeopardize the industry. Canada's invasion of this market has subsided, few fat steers coming from that quarter recently, only heavy steers being able to pay expenses, most of them selling in the \$11 to \$12.50 range. Information from western Canada is that beef-bred cattle have been liquidated to an extent that renders prospective supply barely equal to domestic requirements, orders for fall delivery coming from Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island.

#### Hog Gain Drops Back

Despite an enormous holding of cured meats and lard, hogs advanced \$1.50 per cwt. late in May but failed to hold the

gain. The old crop has been closely marketed, finished hogs have rarely been so scarce, and slaughter is being steadily curtailed. At \$11.50 per cwt. hogs are not out of line with cattle and are on a parity with corn, but, unless meat and lard stocks can be whittled down, feeders cannot expect to recoup themselves to the extent of their feed bill. A June run of sows is on the horizon, condition of which will be low, and until that crisis has been passed the market will continue in a rut. Pigs and thin sows are being dumped, thousands of the former selling at \$7.50 to \$8.50 per cwt.; unfinished sows at \$8.50 to \$9.50 per cwt., while finished hogs are worth \$11.25 to \$12. No explanation as to why hogs and cattle have been out of line is forthcoming, except that imports of pork, especially ham, have been excessive, and that, for some reason, domestic consumption has diminished. One logical reason is that loss of export trade has curtailed the market; another, that hogs have been cashed prematurely to evade a feed bill they could not pay. The accumulation is serious, creating a merchandising problem that may necessitate summer bargain sales. Holders are confident that no serious loss confronts them, that the carryover of meat will be reduced to normal tonnage, and that summer lard production will be sharply reduced.

Poland, which has been furnishing the bulk of foreign pork in the shape of cooked ham, is alarmed over subsidence of American demand for this product, attributing it to the influence of Jewish middlemen in retaliation for pogroms in Poland. The fact is that Polish packers crowded a North American market created largely by propaganda through the medium of free advertising. The product was a novelty, its merit was exaggerated, and a consuming public always on the alert for a novelty took the bait. When about 1,500,000 pounds of Polish ham was thrown into New York continuously for several months, sales resistance was encountered, consumer interest waned, and an accumulation of about 3,000,000 pounds aroused alarm. Domestic packers met the situation by reducing their prices inaugurating leader sales, and arousing resentment in consuming circles. Cooked ham, a costly product, especially when canned, has a limited outlet and that limit was easily reached. Germany would have taken the Polish surplus but for the fact it could not pay in real money, and Poland is equally in need of foreign exchange. Had the spirit of the tariff been observed, every pound of Polish ham would have paid a duty of 6 cents, which would have restricted the traffic.

#### Lambs Healthy

A healthy lamb market is considered certain all summer. California is out of

the eastern market, old-crop lambs in Colorado, Nebraska, and other sections of the West have gone, and the trade is dependent on Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas. A heavy movement from the Southwest all through May broke prices of old-crop shorn lambs \$1 per cwt., Fort Worth temporarily figuring as the most important market on the map. These lambs, actually yearlings, sold largely at \$8.25 to \$9 per cwt. and really prevented semifamine conditions. They went to many points for slaughter, bulk of the product selling at Chicago and Atlantic seaboard markets. Between wool and meat this has been a profitable season for Texas, northern feeders had no serious cause for complaint, and shearers got high prices for their wool. Old-crop lambs faded out on a \$12 to \$12.50 wool basis, shorn stock selling at a discount of \$2 per cwt. Early spring lambs sold at \$12 to \$13 per cwt., due to a short run from the Pacific Coast. A seasonal decline in fat ewes to \$2.50 to \$4 per cwt. merely emphasizes unpopularity of mutton.

An \$11 to \$12 market for fat lambs of the new crop is likely. It is a nervous market and will fluctuate widely from week to week. By the time Kentucky and Tennessee have cleaned up, northwestern lambs will be in evidence; but the major portion of the spring crop will be late. The feeder prospect favors growers, as stock cattle are high and lambs are a good proposition, especially when cheap gains on grass and roughage are possible. This is practical certainty, as millions of acres of grass are untenanted, making growth meanwhile that will be strong feed by the time thin western lambs are available. Late corn may not mature, necessitating feeding on the ground, and the soy-bean acreage is the largest on record. Last year's drought restricted Corn Belt demand for feeding lambs, especially in Iowa and Illinois, where feed abundance is assured this season. The native lamb crop is the largest in several years and will move early, as pasture is lush everywhere. Much of it will be absorbed by local plants and not report at central markets.

### Hides at High Point

BY J. E. P.

ALTERNATELY ACTIVE AND AT A standstill, the hide market shows a disposition to slip. Packers have the situation well in hand, however, and with diminishing slaughter are under no necessity to liquidate to the extent of breaking values. That prices have reached the high point of the season is indicated by free selling on the futures market. Whenever heavy hides reach 17 cents per pound, a reaction of ½ cent is inevitable. Tanners are resisting further appreciation, keeping out of the market for several consecutive days,

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Costs no more than a good pocketknife. Keen, well-tempered tool steel, expertly shaped for easily lifting out horn button; best for calves up to three months, so head will grow shapely. Earlier dehorning is far easier on calves and operator—means better growth, better prices. Limited offer: For \$2.00 with prompt order we will send above tool (postpaid in U.S.A.) with quart can Anchor Brand Dehorning Paint—valuable protective dressing after dehorning or for other surface wounds.

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whereupon holders make fractional concessions. Whenever the packer hide market develops activity, the trading basis is 16½ cents for heavy native steers, 16 cents for extra light natives, 16½ cents for heavy Texas, 15½ cents for light Texas, and 16 cents for heavy Colorados. Cowhides are selling in a narrow margin of 15 to 15½ cents. The small packer market is inert at 14 cents for native steers; 13½ cents for brands.

Hides have suffered less than any of the other commodities during the recent break, due to a strong statistical position which is expected to improve during the next few months. Cattle liquidation has run its course, stocks of raw hides have been reduced, and tanners are not carrying an excessive load of finished leather. The footwear market is receptive, shelf stocks are low, and the summer merchandising season has been fully up to expectation. Recent advances in shoe prices have met no perceptible resistance from consumers, production running at about the same volume as last year.

Future prices will depend on cattle slaughter during the next three months. Meanwhile seasonal improvement in quality will be a favorable influence. A heavy trade in South American hides, both on American and European account, has reduced foreign stocks.

The country hide situation is unsatisfactory, prompting interior packers to hold for an improvement. Heavy steers and cows are nominal at 11 to 11¼ cents, trimmed.

The "Big Four" packers are indifferent about sales, standing pat at 16½ cents for heavy steers and 15½ cents for cows. They intimate that May production cannot be bought on that basis. Sole leather demand is lax, but upper leather tanners have been purchasing in considerable quantities.

In a general way the holding of raw hides, both country and packer, is in strong hands. Further increases in shoe prices may be necessary to meet demands of labor, which has been without necessity of suspension of work in this industry. Present indications are for a gradual improvement in the statistical position of both raw hides and manufactured leather. In fact, there is possibility that tanners will be under the necessity of reducing soaking operations.

## The Wool Market

BY J. E. P.

**A** SOMNOLENT WOOL MARKET may develop activity at any moment. At present, millmen are getting western clips contracted early in the season and reducing floor stocks. Such wool as is consigned by the West is going into storage to await developments. A nominal market at the moment,

it shows a healthy undertone. Mills are busy on old contracts, summer clothing trade is of large volume, both custom and ready-made clothing has moved freely at advancing prices, and shelf stocks are low. Recent irregularity in raw wool has had no perceptible influence on price ideas, as piece-goods values are below replacement.

Sales of raw wool at eastern concentration points are light in volume and so scattered as to make exact quotations impossible. At the moment, mills have no urgent needs, but a time is not far distant when they will be under the necessity of re-entering the market. Price trends of spot foreign wools are mixed but are still below comparable domestic grades. If production and consumption are maintained during 1937 at the average of the past five years, a heavier poundage of foreign wool must be acquired.

Texas is furnishing the bulk of the new clip wools going to eastern mills at present. The wool was contracted early in the winter, and going directly to the loom is rapidly disappearing. Spinners are not buying in excess of immediate needs, the spot market for domestic product being practically at a standstill. Boston reports the sale of merely small quantities from week to week, activity at other markets being correspondingly restricted. Dealers exhibit confidence in the future by refusing to consider current bids. A few lots combining clothing and combing three-eighths and quarter-blood are moving at 38 to 40 cents; clips taken off at feed-lots adjacent to the markets have been taken promptly at 35 cents. Occasionally a trade in fine territory wools is reported at 95 to 98 cents, scoured basis. Bulk of the staple, clothing length, fine territory wool is firmly held at \$1 to \$1.02, scoured basis, and cannot be dislodged on lower bids.

In the fleece states dealers are paying 40 to 41 cents for fine combing; 35 to 36 cents for fine clothing; 42 to 43 cents for half-blood combing; 38 to 39 cents for half-blood clothing; and 37 to 43 cents for three-eighths blood. There is a disposition to hold fleece wools at interior points until actual demand develops, with expectancy that millmen will absorb the bulk when their needs develop, without consignment to eastern concentration points.

## Live-Stock Meetings

(Continued from page 14)

monthly quota; and opposed ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention.

Meeting at Midland, South Dakota, on May 22, the Harding County Live Stock Association adopted the following resolutions:

1. WHEREAS, Large portion of cattle

exported from South America comes from territory infected with hoof-and-mouth disease; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we protest against importation of live stock, beef, or beef products which might cause hoof-and-mouth infection to spread in the United States.

2. WHEREAS, The conditions brought about by drought in western Dakotas, necessitating marketing of cattle under two years of age, show that loading as recommended by National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board for animals weighing less than 800 pounds cannot be carried out so as to make up car weight; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we request that carriers reduce minimum carload weight to 22,000 pounds.

J. B. Clarkson, of Buffalo, was re-elected president; Col. J. Vroman, vice-president; and Fred W. Wilson, of Buffalo, secretary.

## CHICAGO PRICES

### LIVE STOCK

	June 1, 1937	May 3, 1937	June 2, 1936
SLTR. STEERS (1,100-1,500 lb.):			
Choice	\$13.25-14.75	\$13.25-15.50	\$ 8.25- 8.75
Good	11.00-13.50	11.00-14.00	7.50- 8.25
SLTR. STEERS (900-1,100 lb.):			
Choice	12.00-14.25	11.75-15.00	8.25- 8.75
Good	10.50-13.50	10.00-13.25	7.50- 8.25
SLTR. STEERS (900 lb. up):			
Med.	9.50-11.00	9.00-11.25	7.00- 7.50
FED YOUNG STEERS:			
Good-Ch.	10.00-13.50	9.75-13.50	7.50- 9.00
HEIFERS:			
Good-Ch.	10.50-13.00	9.50-13.00	7.25- 8.75
COWS:			
Good	7.75- 9.00	7.25- 8.50	5.50- 6.25
CALVES:			
Good-Ch.	7.00-10.50	6.00- 9.50	6.50- 8.75
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS:			
Good-Ch.	7.50-10.25	7.50-10.25	7.00- 8.25
Com.-Med.	6.50- 7.75	6.50- 7.75	6.00- 7.00
HOGS:			
Med. Wts.	11.25-11.75	10.10-10.40	9.85-10.10
LAMBS (Wooled):			
Good-Ch.		10.25-12.25	
LAMBS (Shorn):			
Good-Ch.	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.25	
SPRING LAMBS:			
Good-Ch.	11.75-12.85		11.00-12.25
EWES:			
Good-Ch.	3.00- 4.50*	4.00- 5.25*	2.75- 4.00

### WESTERN DRESSED MEATS

STEER (700 lb. up):			
Choice	\$18.50-19.50	\$19.00-20.00	\$12.50-13.50
Good	16.00-18.50	16.50-19.00	11.50-12.50
STEER (500-700 lb.):			
Choice	17.50-19.00	18.00-19.50	12.50-14.00
Good	16.00-18.00	16.00-18.50	11.50-13.00
YEARLING STEER:			
Choice	17.50-18.50	17.50-18.50	13.00-14.00
Good	16.00-17.50	15.50-17.50	12.00-13.00
COW:			
Good	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.00	11.00-11.50
VEAL:			
Choice	15.00-16.00	15.00-16.00	14.50-15.50
Good	14.00-15.00	14.00-15.00	13.50-14.50
LAMB:			
Choice	17.00-19.00	18.00-20.00	
Good	16.00-18.00	17.00-19.00	
SPRING LAMB:			
Choice	20.00-21.00		24.00-25.00
Good	19.00-20.00		23.00-24.00
MUTTON:			
Good	9.00-10.00	9.50-10.50	9.00-10.00
PORK LOINS:			
8-12 lb. Av.	24.00-26.50	21.50-24.00	21.00-23.00

\*Shorn.

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## LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	April		First 4 Months	
	1937	1936	1937	1936
<b>RECEIPTS—</b>				
Cattle*	1,057	1,116	4,274	4,471
Calves	577	557	2,121	2,036
Hogs	2,036	1,875	8,845	8,263
Sheep	1,882	1,798	7,112	6,993
<b>TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—</b>				
Cattle*	399	408	1,500	1,579
Calves	170	164	614	640
Hogs	589	550	2,595	2,597
Sheep	830	802	2,976	2,890
<b>STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—</b>				
Cattle*	155	157	554	567
Calves	37	37	126	131
Hogs	36	38	135	137
Sheep	92	112	345	332
<b>FEDERAL INSPECTION SLAUGHTER—</b>				
Cattle*	802	812	3,202	3,223
Calves	588	525	2,101	1,878
Hogs	2,810	2,559	12,204	10,923
Sheep	1,334	1,267	5,661	5,494

Three ciphers omitted. Receipts and shipments are for sixty-nine markets.

\*Exclusive of calves.

†Includes stockers and feeders.

## High Pastures

(Continued from page 7)

regarded as permanent. They will silt up. But before that, grass is to cover them sufficiently to do the retarding job.

"Grass, not engineering," I was assured repeatedly, "is the solution for most range erosion."

On the Navajo Reservation, in Arizona and New Mexico, where the average rainfall is but six or seven inches per year, effects of erosion due to overstocking and occasional torrential floods have been severe. The Indian population is increasing, likewise their herds. Interesting experiments in diversion irrigation have been undertaken here. Earth dams thrown up in the stream beds halt floods. The water is diverted over spillways at the side, moving gently and spreading over a wide area. The destructive effect of the water is lost, and it irrigates hundreds of acres besides. On one of these flats, where formerly there was little more than a trace of good pasture, I saw where 100 tons of hay had been cut.

It must be remembered, however, that an area such as this, and some of the others, like the San Simon Valley, which is always cited when speaking of erosion, are special problem areas. The range at large cannot be judged

by them. In a word, range depletion and erosion vary tremendously in different localities and under different conditions of use. A determining factor often seems to be whether or not the range is fenced. Where individual control of a range exists, it is usually in strikingly better condition. This was shown on the forests. R. W. Hussey, supervisor of the Coconino National Forest, in Northern Arizona, showed me his map of grazing allotments. Later we drove for miles over the Forest and saw each allotment fenced.

"That," said Supervisor Hussey, "came about in 1925. We had a controversy between cattle and sheep men as to which kinds of livestock were worst eaters of forest reproduction. As long as they ran together, nobody knew. We put up fences and kept each permittee on his own land. Cattle"—smiling—"seemed to eat rather more young trees than sheep."

### Views on Range Depletion

"Since having fences, we can tell if an allotment is being overgrazed. We don't have to do much about it. The permittees see for themselves. Since the permits run for ten years and are renewable, it's to their interest to keep the grass in good shape."

Opinions as to the total condition of the range vary widely. The "green book" has been cited in detail. A very extreme view is that of the director of the Desert Laboratory, at Tucson, Forrest Shreve, who declared that 70 per cent more cattle and sheep are grazing on the Western range than should be. At the opposite extreme is a Wyoming sheepman, who declared that the range is not depleted at all.

"I defy anyone, Forest Service official or stockman," he said, "to show where the range has ever been permanently injured by grazing. It is impossible; it cannot be done."

As a matter of fact, livestock men generally are earnestly convinced that the extent of range depletion has been greatly exaggerated, and for a purpose.

I drove a dozen or so miles off the highway, south of Deeth, Nevada, to see Wm. B. Wright, president of the Nevada State Cattle Association and manager of the 71 Ranch.

"Livestock men," said Wright, "are not destroyers. They are necessarily conservationists. Even as to wild game. I can show you, on our own ranges, deer, grouse, antelope, sage hens, beaver, that are there because we protected them. The killing of a beaver makes a Nevada ranchman about as mad as the shooting of his saddle horse. We conserve the feed, too, in order to stay in business."

"We all know that there has been unwise management of public lands. The stockman, in many places, got every bit of grass there was, knowing if he didn't somebody else would. Nebraska and Texas are generally ad-

mitted to have little range depletion, and there the range is effectively controlled by private ownership or state lease. The Federal Government has no hand in it. It is generally recognized that, barring droughts, the best grazing in the West is in the sand hills of Nebraska, where it is customary in normal years to ship 600-pound yearlings off of grass. Range depletion elsewhere traces to unsound public management."

### Veteran Cattlemen Talk

From J. Byron Wilson, sheepman of McKinley, Wyoming, secretary-treasurer of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, came this:

"Anyone who has practical experience in Wyoming will tell you that if we have rains at the proper time in the spring, we are certain to have good feed. In 1934 the entire state was suffering from a very severe drought. The range was completely denuded. A great many of the stockmen and all of the conservation school said the range would never recover. We had some rains the last few days of August, 1934, and in 1935 had our usual spring rains; and in 1935 grass on the Wyoming ranges was as good as it has ever been in the memory of man. Some of the scientists say that while the feed looked luxuriant in 1935, some of the most desirable varieties of the native grasses were absent. My own experience, however, is that sheep and cattle put on as much weight in 1935 as they ever had put on."

In Phoenix, Arizona, I talked with J. M. (sometimes affectionately called Geronimo) Cartwright, owner of the CC Ranch in the Cave Creek country, and president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association. Decades on the range have weathered him. "I was the first cattleman on the scene in my neighborhood," he told me. "Others came later. We got along all right. Then a band of sheep came. I'll never forget! They found they could winter fine on our range—we called it ours, because we used it first. Early sheepmen told others. They all came. It got so a man would have so many cattle and think he could winter them; and then he would find that all the feed he had counted on was gone. Somebody had got it first. You couldn't put them off. The domain was theirs as much as anybody's. I used to eat up all my grass as soon as I could, to discourage others from coming. If the range is depleted, as they say, it's because of such things. But it isn't."

### "Green Book" Under Fire

From Wyoming again, I quote J. Elmer Brock, of Kaycee, lately president of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association. He said:

"My personal observations as to conditions on the range are limited to my own state and Southern Montana. I

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think perhaps that area will stand more overgrazing than most sections, though perhaps it will run pretty much alike except a little in Southern Colorado, some in Arizona and New Mexico and the desert area of California. Judging from reports by other stockmen, these areas may perhaps be subject to actual damage. As for the areas with which I am more familiar, I will say that the range is about as good as it was as far back as I can remember, and I have lived in Wyoming for more than fifty-two years.

"About the only permanent damage that I have ever seen done was with the plow and not by grazing."

It is very widely believed in the West, not only by livestock men but also by many agricultural-college men, bankers, businessmen, and others with whom I talked, that the case for depletion has been gravely overstated. It is believed that the "green book" is suspect for several reasons: (1) Its fundamental premise, "virgin range," is an approximation; (2) It has a "purpose," and arguments are colored to promote it; (3) The testimony of men as competent as the authors is directly opposed to theirs; (4) The part played by drought, virtually continuous over parts of the range since 1930, is minimized.

That there is range depletion in many places is not denied. It is held that the true picture of depletion ought to be painted, never forgotten. Evidences of depletion exist that anyone who has eyes may go and see. That there has been accelerated erosion in some quarters because of forage depletion is equally a fact to be seen by anyone who has an open mind and eyes. That depletion is "practically universal," as the Secretary of Agriculture declared, is believed to be an enthusiastic overstatement.

#### The Burning Issue

As to that aforementioned "purpose." Much of the hullabaloo about depletion and erosion, it is believed, is part of a campaign to bring about a settlement of the public-lands question along certain lines. Who is to control the remaining public domain? That is a hot question. For the time being, it is in the hands of the Department of the Interior. Secretary Wallace, in his introduction to the "green book" stated emphatically:

"The grazing districts and the public domain should be transferred to the Department of Agriculture."

There are whirlwinds of conflicting opinions concerning that. Many are still asking, should either department have them, finally and irrevocably? The question is vital in the West. Whatever solution is chosen may be equally vital in the East. Discussion of the issues at stake must wait for a second article.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—A second article on the range country by Mr. Clark will appear in an early issue.

## FOREIGN

### Mexicans Object to Pact

OPPOSITION TO RATIFICATION OF THE Argentine sanitary convention is now being voiced by cattlemen in Mexico. The "Weekly Market Report and News Letter," published by the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, states that president of the Nogales District Association of Cattlemen of Sonora, Mexico, a subsidiary of the Cattlemen's Union for the Region of Sonora (*Asociacion Ganadera Local de Nogales Miembro de la Union Ganadera Regional de Sonora*), has requested its state association to make representations to the American government seeking a refusal of the Senate to ratify the Argentine sanitary pact.

Because of the heavy importation of purebred bulls from the United States to Mexico, because it is often necessary during a drought for American cattle to come to Mexico for pasture, and because of the market in this country for their steers, it is stated, they are urging the Mexican government to request the American Congress not to ratify the Argentine pact.

### Germany's Self-Sufficiency

FROM A STUDY ON GERMANY'S CAPACITY to produce agricultural products, by Dr. N. Jasny, former senior economist with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, appearing in *Foreign Agriculture*, a monthly publication of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, we extract the following:

Germany was at one time the second largest importer of American agricultural products. In recent years, however, imports of agricultural products in general, and from the United States in particular, have been greatly reduced, and Germany has undertaken a program designed to attain agricultural self-sufficiency. Many phases of the program seem to involve excessively high-cost factors, but the German government justifies these on the basis of national necessity. German natural conditions are best adapted to the production of carbohydrates, such as small grains and potatoes, but poorly adapted to the production of proteins and fats. A further increase in production can be expected if the present policy is continued, but it does not appear that Germany will be able to achieve the degree of self-sufficiency desired.

### Canadian Reindeer Fawning

FAWNING IN CANADA'S REINDEER HERD, which was moved to the fawning grounds on Richards Island about the end of March, had by May 6 resulted in the birth of 1,000 fawns, with the season not completed. In the last official count,

August, 1936, the herd comprised 3,750 animals.

Fawning usually starts about mid-April and continues until the end of May. Despite the fact that Canada's reindeer reserve is located approximately 200 miles north of the Arctic circle and most of the fawning occurs before termination of the winter season, the proportion of young animals which survive is usually 85 or 90 per cent, indicating that the young possess remarkable stamina at birth. Notwithstanding low temperatures, the fawns, born in the open, survive and a few hours later are walking awkwardly about. Within a few days they are scraping about for moss to augment the milk provided by their mothers.

### Live Stock in Chihuahua

THE LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY IN THE State of Chihuahua, Mexico, has shown substantial gains in the past ten years, and recent enactment of federal legislation designed to encourage production of live stock is expected further to improve conditions in this industry.

Increases in Chihuahua live stock have been substantial in recent years, as indicated in census figures:

	1925	1930	1935
Cattle .....	296,840	685,282	1,027,900
Sheep .....	28,024	150,199	165,260
Goats .....	130,970	408,846	449,740
Swine .....	19,080	108,453	119,300

Of the 153,331 cattle marketed in 1936 it is reported that 57,000 were exported to the United States.



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### FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

**M**EAT consumption by Europeans has increased enormously in the last hundred years, but preference is given now to younger and leaner meat, we read in a *United Press* dispatch. Average annual per capita beef consumption rose from 5 pounds in 1840 to 22 in 1880 and 30 in pre-war years, but fell to 25 in 1935. Twenty times more pork was eaten in 1919 than in 1817, and 225 per cent more mutton in 1934 than in 1820. In the first part of last century, in general, eight-year-old oxen and ten-year-old cows were fattened and slaughtered because people liked compact and fat meats. The new preference has come with the lessened physical strain in modern industry.

\* \* \*

Grain crops of central Europe suffered considerably during the past winter, according to reports received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In Germany, wheat acreage winter-killed was estimated at 6.9 per cent of the area sown—the largest winter loss experienced since 1922. Winter rye loss was heavy; abandonment of winter barley acreage was great. Condition figures for both Poland and Czechoslovakia are well below those of last season.

\* \* \*

Increase of 60 per cent in wheat shipments, huge exports of other classes of grain and linseed, and "boom" prices for most commodities (including wheat, maize, barley, flour, corn meal, cowhides, and wool), all contributed to make March, 1937, the record month for exports in the whole of Argentine history, says the *Times of Argentina*.

\* \* \*

Instead of Nazi children taking flowers to school, they have been ordered to take bones. Containers are placed in the schoolrooms, into which the children drop their contributions, which are later collected under Hitler's economy plan.

## Registered Hereford Bulls

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quality of our bulls.

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United States is the principal market for sheep and goat casings exported from Tientsin, China. This commodity is used exclusively for the manufacture of "hot dogs." Until 1936, slack demand and competition from a cheap substitute curtailed business in this commodity and held prices to low levels, but in the second half of the past year business with American buyers increased in volume at rising prices.

\* \* \*

Meat products and by-products comprise the principal group of exports from Paraguay, amounting to 28.60 per cent of total exports for the first half of 1936.

\* \* \*

Contemplated additional aid to British agriculture is the payment of production subsidy on a 67,200,000-bushel maximum domestic wheat production quota instead of on 50,400,000 bushels. Oat and barley producers not also getting wheat payments would receive subsidy per acre equal to the difference between average price and 56 cents per bushel up to a certain yield.

\* \* \*

The government of Chile has authorized an expenditure of \$7,500,000 for the purchase of cattle in Argentina, because of the prohibitive rise in price of meat in Chile.

### Canada-United States Trade

ANALYSIS SHOWING SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES in both American exports to and imports from Canada in 1936, the first year of the reciprocal trade agreement between the two countries, has been submitted to the public by the Department of State.

The survey also shows that American imports from Canada exceeded exports to that country by more than \$8,000,000.

Exports for the year were placed at \$368,854,000, compared with \$308,157,000 in 1935, and imports at \$377,576,000, against \$286,112,000 in the previous year.

The most notable increases in American imports from Canada were listed in these groups: Whiskey, cattle (weighing 700 pounds or more), softwood lumber, horses, cheddar cheese, certain fish, maple sugar, seed potatoes, newsprint, various types of wood pulp, unmanufactured asbestos, nickel ore, wheat, barley, rye, corn, cattle hides, and iron and steel scrap.

### Fewer Farmer Bankruptcies

A 15 PER CENT DECREASE IN BANKRUPTCIES among farmers during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1936, as compared with the preceding fiscal year, is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Farmer bankruptcies numbered 3,642 cases in the last fiscal year, compared with 4,311 in 1935. Reductions were

reported for all states except Vermont, Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, and California.

States with the largest number of farmer bankruptcies included Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Iowa, and Indiana. Nearly one-third of the total number the country over was in the east north central region—1,045 in 1936 compared with 1,055 in 1935.

### Average Farm Prices

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS for live stock, feed grains, and hay, as given by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, on May 15, 1937, with comparisons, were:

COMMODITY	May 15, 1937	May 15, 1936	May Av. 1910-14
Hogs (cwt.)	\$ 9.39	\$ 8.59	\$ 7.23
Beef cattle (cwt.)	7.13	6.00	5.50
Veal calves (cwt.)	7.96	7.43	6.59
Lambs (cwt.)	9.16	8.59	6.46
Sheep (cwt.)	4.89	4.30	4.96
Wool (lb.)	.327	.258	.178
Milk cows (head)	56.60	53.00	49.40
Horses (head)	98.10	100.20	139.20
Mules (head)	120.00	115.10	.....
Corn (bu.)	1.212	.600	.662
Oats (bu.)	.535	.251	.415
Barley (bu.)	.861	.371	.647
Hay (ton)	12.11	7.26	12.28
Cottonseed (ton)	38.52	30.67	23.03

### Seed "Young" Gullies

BEFORE A NATURAL DRAW IN A CULTIVATED field shown signs of gullying, it should be seeded to well-adapted grasses, says the Soil Conservation Service. Vegetation in the waterway spreads surface water more evenly and lessens the danger of erosion damage by preventing its rapid concentration in a narrow channel. Such vegetated waterways can easily be mowed and often provide a supplemental hay crop.

State recommendations should be followed with regard to kinds and amounts of seed mixtures to use. Rates of seeding should be slightly greater than for general pasture or meadow seeding, because a denser and more rapid growth is important. If a nurse crop of small grain is clipped when nearing maximum height, the tops lodge in the stubble, provide a mulch, and give added protection to the young grass plants.

### MEAT HOLDINGS

Commodity in Pounds (000 omitted)	May 1 1937	May 1 1936	Five-Yr. Aver.
Frozen beef	85,416	47,924	35,758
Cured beef*	25,878	17,087	16,451
Lamb and mutton	4,578	1,785	1,786
Frozen pork	316,486	102,031	170,550
Dry salt pork*	91,731	90,167	97,083
Pickled pork*	348,138	265,204	353,926
Miscellaneous	99,738	60,699	56,751
Total meats	971,965	584,897	732,305
Lard	210,537	83,615	109,368
Frozen poultry	94,947	49,324	52,404
Creamery butter	6,409	4,997	8,461
Eggs (case equiv.)	6,938	5,015	5,804

\*Cured or in process of cure.



## Fence Posts—Round or Split?

WHICH LAST LONGER, ROUND OR SPLIT fence posts?

When fence posts are untreated it is not a question of selecting round or split posts, say scientists of the Forest Service. Generally it is the amount and kind of heartwood that really determines how long a post lasts.

Such trees as the Osage orange, cedar, black locust, or chestnut make good posts because they have plenty of durable heartwood. Douglas fir and southern yellow pine make fairly good posts, but the heartwood is not so lasting. On the other hand, the amount of heartwood in the cottonwood, basswood, spruce, and hemlock is not important, as neither sapwood nor heartwood is lasting. They make poor posts either split or round.

From a practical standpoint, an untreated split post may be better than an untreated round post. If the round post has a great deal of sapwood around the heartwood, then the staples may not reach the heartwood. Split posts may be set so that the staples may be driven directly into the heartwood where they will hold long after the sapwood has rotted away.

When a post is treated with a preservative, such as creosote, then the round post is best, with the exception of the red oak. The heartwood on other trees, especially white oak, red gum, Douglas fir, and southern yellow pine, will not absorb much of the preservative even under high pressure, although the softer sapwood readily absorbs the protective creosote. Either the heartwood or sapwood of the red oak absorbs the preservative.

Fence posts that have been in the ground for 125 years and still are in fair shape were found by Oran Raber, of the Department of Agriculture, in tracing the history of the shipmast locust on Long Island and in other parts of New York State, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. Other posts were found that had been set eighty years ago, indicating that this particular variety of the locust is even more hardy and lasting than other varieties of the common locust, which itself is an unusually durable wood.

## Moving Weeds Aids Grass

MOWING WEEDS AND REMOVING BRUSH and other tall vegetation encourages the spread of more beneficial grasses, clover, and lespedeza, eliminates the competition for moisture and plant food, and results in a turf more resistant to soil erosion, the Soil Conservation Service has found. In the past two years mowing has been extended over more than 100,000 previously unmowed acres of grassland on Soil Conservation Service erosion control areas. Fairly high mowing—from 4 to 6 inches when weeds are about in full bloom—is recommended.

# ROUND THE RANGE

## Ranges and Stock

BY F. W. BEIER, JR.

B. A. E. Live-Stock Statistician

**W**ESTERN RANGES AND PASTURES and feed prospects in early June were materially improved by late May and early June rains. Drought conditions were broken over most of western Kansas, western Oklahoma, northern Texas, and eastern New Mexico, and moisture was generally sufficient to make feed. Eastern Colorado and western Nebraska range feed prospects were greatly improved by rain. Moisture was needed over much of eastern Montana, the western Dakotas, and northeastern Wyoming, where feed prospects were poor to fair. Moisture and feed prospects were good in the eastern Dakotas, eastern Nebraska, and Kansas.

Ranges are good in western Montana, central and western Wyoming, and the mountain and western sections of Colorado; dry in southwestern New Mexico.

Pastures and ranges are good in Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and in the south and higher areas of California, but have dried prematurely in California's northern valleys. High range feed prospects are generally good, but feed is a little late.

Recent moisture will make it possible to produce good crops of feeds in the southern Great Plains area and in the Southwest.

Cattle generally are in good condition and made gains except in the northern Great Plains sections, where feed has been short. The 1937 calf crop is good except in areas where feed was short the past year. Texas has an excellent calf crop. Cattle were moved rapidly out of western feeding areas during May. Texas cattle shipments were heavy the past month, and cattle were in very good flesh. Movement of replacement cattle into northern areas that shipped heavily during the fall of 1936 have been delayed by lack of new feed. The cattle situation in general is good in the western country.

Sheep have done well and are in good flesh except in a few local northern Great Plains areas. Texas and New Mexico have a good crop of lambs, and general good crop in the northern late lambing areas, except local sections where winter was severe and spring feed short. Texas shipped a record number of sheep and lambs during May. The California early lamb movement during May was relatively light. The early lamb movement from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington will be a bit late. Most sheep ranges have ample

feed for lambs, and recent rains greatly improved feed in the Texas sheep section.

Shearing is well under way in northern areas and about completed in southern sections. Bulk of the western wool clip was contracted early. Recent sales have been rather limited.

## Crop Prospects

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON MAY 1 forecasted a winter wheat crop of 654,295,000 bushels—135,000,000 bushels above 1936 harvestings, 30,000,000 bushels above 1928-32 average, and the largest since 1931. Condition on 47,410,000 acres (37,608,000 acres harvested last year) which the department predicted would be harvested, was reported at 77.4 per cent of normal. Nearly 10,000,000 acres of the all-time record winter wheat seeding of 57,187,000 acres last fall have been abandoned.

The rye crop was forecast at 42,913,000 bushels on 4,092,000 acres expected to be harvested. This compares with 25,554,000 bushels produced last year and with 58,597,000 bushels in 1935.

Condition of hay on May 1 was reported as 73 per cent of normal, and pastures, 69.3 per cent of normal. Hay supplies on farms were reported small and prospects for the new crops below average.

## BULLETINS IN BRIEF

**V**ALUE of American farms, with improvements, stands at the present time at 85 per cent of the value in 1912-14. New England leads with a value of 107, followed by South Atlantic states at 104 and east south central states at 102. All other groups are placed below 100. Seven states in the west north central section—states hardest hit by drought—stand at 71.

\* \* \*

Lake Mead, the 100-mile-long body of water created by construction of Boulder Dam, has exerted absolutely no influence on the weather and climate of America's driest desert in which it lies. This statement was issued by the Bureau of Reclamation after an investigation was made in response to unauthoritative statements that perceptible changes in the climate and weather were resulting as Lake Mead grew.

\* \* \*

There now remain only ninety-one counties in the United States that are not classified as modified accredited areas; that is, tuberculosis among cattle has been reduced to less than .05 per cent. Forty-three are located in Cali-

fornia, 29 in South Dakota, 14 in New York, 4 in New Jersey, and 1 in Maryland.

\* \* \*

More than 25,000 miles of rural electric lines were constructed in 1936, according to the REA. About 110,000 farms were provided with electric service for the first time through these new lines. This was the largest increase for any year in the history of the country.

\* \* \*

An "itinerant merchant" bill, providing for control of activities of persons with trucks who go about the country buying and selling farm commodities and other merchandise without an established place of business, has passed Missouri's senate. The measure calls for licensing of the itinerant merchants and regulations pertaining to their operations. Trucks used would bear a sign "Itinerant Merchant," and operators would carry a manifest describing their cargo, where loaded and purchased, and subsequent sales of portions of the cargo. It will also require posting of a bond. Nebraska has already passed similar legislation.

\* \* \*

Scandinavian principles of co-operative farming are to be tried out in Arizona. Farming acreages on three RA projects will be used to augment in times of unemployment the income of families whose heads normally pursue trades or work as day laborers. On a fourth project sixty families will devote full time to co-operative farming of 3,400 acres, sharing the proceeds.

\* \* \*

Experiments to ascertain why wool on the shoulder of a sheep is not so good as that on the hind quarter are being made

at College of Agriculture of the University of California. It is hoped that transplanting of skin from the sheep's fore quarter to the rear quarter will show whether the difference in wool quality is hereditary or is due to nutritional conditions.

\* \* \*

Entomologists of the Department of Agriculture have computed that grasshoppers, at the rate of about 37 for every 11 square feet, destroy enough feed on 2 acres of range land in 2 months to keep a cow for the same period, and that Mormon crickets, at the rate of 16 to every 11 square feet, consume as much as does 1 cow. The grasshopper eats only about one-third of the forage that it destroys, the remainder being dropped to the ground.

\* \* \*

Dated eggs is the latest development in the poultry department of the Kansas State College. L. F. Payne, poultry specialist at the college, says they sell faster and at higher prices than other eggs. The rubber-stamped date goes on the day the egg is laid.

\* \* \*

Soil conservation men in the Department of Agriculture have found that shallow furrows fairly close together are better than deeper furrows farther apart. Many furrows mean a more even distribution of moisture and of the thickened forage crop. Shallow furrows disturb the grass less in a permanent pasture, do not turn up the subsoil, and are more easily crossed with farm machinery.

\* \* \*

Marketing of eggs under government grade started in West Virginia about nine years ago. Today it is in effect over practically the entire country. Last year, more than 1,000,000 cases of eggs were inspected by government graders at country points and terminal markets.

\* \* \*

A brand law now in effect in the state of Washington provides for (1) compulsory system of brand recording, prohibiting use of unrecorded brands of identical irons by different individuals; (2) two systems of brand inspection—checking of incoming shipments at Seattle and Spokane and local or terminal or destination checking of stock leaving the county; (3) buyers keeping record of brands on stock acquired. Rigid truck checkup at weighing stations in effect in Washington keeps tab on live-stock shipments.

\* \* \*

In Montana more rigid inspection of transportation of cattle is provided for in amendments to existing laws that (1) give the right to highway patrolmen to stop trucks hauling live stock for inspection as to possession; (2) provide for brand inspection of county-to-county shipments at point of loading or,

in some cases, at destination, the act not applying to movements for pasturing, feeding, etc., and stock used in ordinary conduct of business.

\* \* \*

Salt is poisonous to hogs if given in too large quantities, and hogs require little salt in the ration, explains the Bureau of Animal Industry. The practice of mixing salt with feed or soaking mash feeds in salt water should be discouraged, as brine is likely to form. If salt is fed: Keep it before the hogs at all times so they can take all they want; place in small box or self-feeder in a shed and off the floor, so it will not get wet; do not allow box to become empty—the animals may crave salt when they have access to it again and may consume it in harmful quantities.

\* \* \*

Average cost per mile of 93 1½-ton trucks operated in the Pacific Northwest was 6.93 cents a mile. Average distance traveled was 4,557 miles. Total annual cost was \$315.73. Ninety-two 1-ton trucks were operated at an average of 7.99 cents a mile; distance, 3,087 miles; cost, \$246.67. Eight 2-ton trucks averaged 19 cents a mile; distance, 1,875 miles; cost, \$356.83. In the northern Great Plains, 143 1½-ton trucks cost 8.95 cents per mile; distance, 2,694 miles; cost, \$241.19. Three hundred 1-ton trucks cost 8.15 cents a mile; distance, 2,427 miles; cost, \$197.75 a year.

\* \* \*

Out of each average 100 pounds of live pigs comes about 70 pounds of trimmed pork, rendered lard, and miscellaneous edible meats. Part of the remainder is utilized for by-products. The rest is sheer waste. Of the near 70 pounds of pork and lard, about 9 are pork chops; 10 or 12, ham; 11 or 12, bacon; remaining 40 pounds, spare ribs, hocks, tail, neck bones, lard, pig's feet, kidneys, liver, heart, trimmings, and miscellaneous parts.

\* \* \*

Trees planted on the 1,277 miles of shelterbelt strips and farm windbreaks planted on 6,743 acres in the prairie states forestry project survived the 1936 drought to the extent of an average of 550 trees to the acre. The average number of trees planted per acre was 740, although the number varied from 540 to 1,000 in different cites. In many plantings, pocket gophers and jack rabbits caused more damage to the trees than did the dry weather.

\* \* \*

Thirteen aviation firms have been employed by the AAA to make aerial maps of 377 agricultural counties in 22 states. From the photographs agricultural experts will be able to tell how much acreage each farmer retired from production and put into soil-building crops.

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